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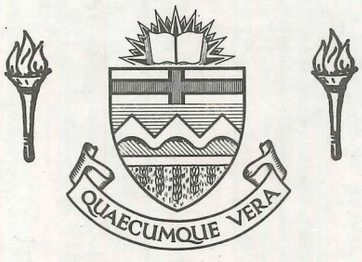
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Colonies

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OF

British Parliamentary Papers

ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1880

Colonies General

20

IRISH UNIVERSITY PRESS

SHANNON · IRELAND

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Contents

IUP Page Number

For ease of reference IUP editors have assigned a continuous pagination which appears on the top outer margin of each page.

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Years 1877–1879
1880 [c.2598] Vol XLVIII Sess 1 13

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Years 1878 and 1879
1880 [c.2730] Vol XLVIII Sess 2 357

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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

FORTY-FOUR VOLUMES.

—(9.)—

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

SESSION 1.—5 *February* 1880——24 *March* 1880.

SESSION 2.—29 *April* 1880——7 *September* 1880.

VOL. XLVIII.

1880.

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1880.

FORTY-FOUR VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

NINTH VOLUME.

N.B.—*THE* Figures *at the* beginning of the line, *correspond with the* N° *at the foot of each* Paper; *and the* Figures *at the* end of the line, *refer to the* MS. Paging *of the Volumes arranged for The House of Commons.*

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS:

Colonial Possessions:

[c. 2598.] Papers relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions: Reports for 1877, 1878, and 1879 (in continuation of [c. 2444] of 1879) - - - - - - - - - - p. 1

[c. 2730.] Further Papers: Reports for 1878 and 1879 - - - 347

PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1877, 1878, AND 1879.

(*In continuation of* [C.-2444.] *of* 1879.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1880.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No. in Series.	COLONY.	Page.
1	NEW SOUTH WALES (Report on Statistical Returns for 1878) - - - - - -	3
2	WESTERN AUSTRALIA - - - -	17
3	NEW ZEALAND (Statistics for 1878) - - -	21
4	JAMAICA - - - - - -	44
5	BRITISH HONDURAS (Extract from a Narrative of a Journey across the unexplored portion of the Colony, by Henry Fowler, Colonial Secretary -	85
6	BARBADOS - - - - - -	119
7	GRENADA - - - - - -	141
8	TOBAGO - - - - - -	150
9	ANTIGUA - - - - - -	161
10	MONTSERRAT - - - - -	191
11	ANGUILLA - - - - - -	193
12	NEVIS - - - - - -	196
13	DOMINICA - - - - - -	201
14	GAMBIA - - - - - -	207
15	CEYLON - - - - - -	220
16	MAURITIUS - - - - - -	235
17	SEYCHELLES - - - - - -	263
18	SINGAPORE - - - - - -	295
19	MALACCA - - - - - -	308
20	TRANSVAAL - - - - - -	314

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1.

Governor Lord Augustus Loftus, G.C.B., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.

Government House, Sydney,
October 23, 1879.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward to you, herewith, the statistical register of New South Wales for the year 1878.

2. In accordance with the request contained in the circular despatch of 16th January 1865, an extra copy is forwarded for the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Augustus Loftus.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

The Registrar-General's Report to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Registrar-General's Department, Sydney,
August 1, 1879.

Sir,

I do myself the honour to forward the usual annual report on the statistical returns for the year 1878.

Part I.

Population, Immigration, Vital Statistics, &c.

Population.

The population of the Colony on 31st December 1878 is estimated at 693,743 persons. The increase on the previous year amounts to 31,531 persons, or 4·76 per cent. The estimated number of males is 385,678, and of females 308,065. I find then that there were 77,613 more males than females, which gives 556 males and 444 females to 1,000 of population, the former being 112 in every 1,000 in excess of the latter, and 2 per 1,000 over the figures of the previous year. The increase of population for each half year is found to be as follows:—

Half year ending 30th June 1878.

Births - - - -	12,127
Arrivals by sea - - -	19,918
Total - - -	32,045

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NEW SOUTH WALES.

Deaths - - - -	5,971
Departures by sea - - -	12,970
Total - - -	18,941

The net increase at the close of the first six months of the year being 13,104, the births exceeding the deaths by 6,156, and the arrivals were 6,948 over the departures.

Half year ending 31st December 1878.

Births - - - -	13,201
Arrivals by sea - - -	19,961
Total - - -	33,162
Deaths - - - -	4,792
Departures by sea - - -	9,943
Total - - -	14,735

These figures show a net increase in the second half of the year of 18,427; the births being 8,409 in excess of the deaths, and arrivals 10,018 over the departures.

Marriages, births, deaths. The number of marriages celebrated in the Colony during the year 1878 amounted to 5,317, being 323 in excess of those for the previous year. There were 25,328 births registered in the year, showing an increase of 1,477 on the preceding year. The number of deaths recorded was 10,763, as against 9,869 in the previous year, which shows an increase of 894.

Hospitals. There were 44 * hospitals in the Colony during the year 1878, all of which, except St. Vincent's Hospital, in Sydney, were in part supported by the Government. The total receipts amounted to 46,779*l.*, of which sum 21,860*l.* was received as voluntary contributions, and 24,919*l.* from the public purse. The total disbursements amounted to 49,857*l.*, which include various sums expended on buildings. The number of persons admitted during the year was 6,789, and 723 patients were inmates at the end of the year. The deaths numbered 738, which is nearly 11 per cent. on admissions. Out-door relief was afforded during the year to 9,842 persons. Both receipts and disbursements were in excess of the previous year by 5,117*l.* and 9,655*l.* respectively.

Benevolent Asylums. The total receipts of benevolent asylums for the year amounted to 28,002*l.*, of which 24,921*l.* was received from the Treasury and 3,081*l.* from voluntary sources. Of the total receipts the three asylums in Hyde Park, Parramatta, and Liverpool absorbed 18,859*l.*, the whole of which was public money.

Orphan and Industrial Schools. There were 12 of these institutions receiving inmates during the year 1878. Five of these were supported entirely by the

* One closed (Grenfell), and no return from the one at Newcastle.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Government, two by Government in conjunction with voluntary aid, and five were maintained without assistance from Government. The total receipts amounted to 35,270*l.*, divided as follows:—From Government, 27,184*l.*; from voluntary sources, 8,086*l.*

Lunatic and Invalid Establishments.

The total cost incurred during the year in maintaining these institutions amounted to 56,642*l.* The sum of 1,617*l.* was received from relations and friends for maintenance of patients and paid into the Treasury. At the close of the year 1877 there were 1,836 inmates. The number admitted during the year 1878 was 879, and there were 657 discharges. The number of deaths was 138, leaving 1,920 as patients at the close of the year 1878.

Miscellaneous.

At the end of the return of charitable institutions are several under the head of miscellaneons, all of which exist solely by the aid of voluntary contributions. The general total amount received during the year 1878 for relieving distress in its various forms was 170,772*l.*, the public purse supplying 133,907*l.*, and voluntary aid producing 36,865*l.* These sums are exclusive of returns from the House of the Good Samaritan and Sailors' Home from which no information was obtained.

Wages, provisions, and clothing.

On pages 19 to 23, inclusive, of this volume will be found tables showing the current prices paid for labour in some of the principal trades of the Colony during the year 1878, also the current prices of clothing for persons of the labouring class, and the retail prices of provisions.

PART II.

Religion, Education, Crime.

Churches and chapels.

From the ecclesiastical return I find that in the year 1878 there were 1,250 churches and chapels in the Colony, as against 1,186 in the previous year. The number of ministers registered under Acts 19 Vict., Nos. 30 and 34, is shown to be 631. The total number of individual sittings is 198,673. The total average attendance on Sundays is given at 161,472, and at all other places used for public worship at 39,388, making in all a total average attendance of 200,860 persons. Five hundred and forty-three out of the 631 ministers are registered as belonging to the following denominations, viz.: Church of England, 207; Roman Catholic, 164; Presbyterian, 83; Wesleyan Methodist, 89; and to these churches there were paid the sum of 23,807*l.* as salaries and allowances, and moneys from the Church and School Estates.

Sunday-schools.

The return of Sunday schools shows that there were 1,196 in the Colony during the year 1878. The number of children on the registers was 86,014, with an average attendance of 64,576; and there were 8,063 teachers engaged.

Education. Private schools.

The number of private schools throughout the Colony in the year 1878 was 543, in which 18,743 pupils were receiving instruction. The number of teachers employed was 1,047, comprising 273 males and 774 females. As compared with the previous year, we find a decrease of 356 scholars.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Council of Education.

The total number of schools under the control of the Council of Education during the year 1878 is shown to be 1,189, teachers 1,825, and scholars 128,125. Comparing these figures with those for the previous year, I find an addition of 72 schools, 160 teachers, and 10,873 scholars. The total amount expended during the year was 421,866*l.*, of which 352,838*l.* was paid from the Colonial Treasury, and 69,028*l.* was received from voluntary contributions, fees, and other sources. The sum shown as paid from the Treasury includes 2,838*l.* from the Clergy School Estates Revenue Fund. The amount expended, as shown above, is 103,613*l.* in excess of the expenditure of the previous year. The following figures compare the number of schools, &c. in the years 1877 and 1878:—

	1877.			1878.		
	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Fees, &c.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Fees, &c.
			£			£
Public schools - -	561	71,794	42,491	620	81,229	46,063
Provisional schools -	266	8,707	4,500	285	9,531	3,926
Half-time schools -	112	2,213	763	115	2,337	694
Denominational schools -	178	34,538	18,856	169	35,028	18,345
	1,117	117,252	66,610	1,189	128,125	69,028

The following figures show the per-centage which these results bear to the total results in each of the above-mentioned years:—

	1877.			1878.		
	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Fees, &c.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Fees, &c.
Public schools - -	50·22	61·23	63·79	52·15	63·40	66·73
Provisional schools -	23·81	7·42	6·76	23·97	7·44	5·69
Half-time schools -	10·03	1·89	1·14	9·67	1·82	1·00
Denominational schools -	15·94	29·46	28·31	14·21	27·34	26·58
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

From the educational summary table I find that in the year 1878 there were 148,788 scholars receiving instruction in the various schools of the Colony, which shows an increase on the

previous year of 10,521. The total amount set apart for educational purposes during the year 1878 was 447,457*l.* This sum does not include the cost of education in private schools, or the amount expended on instruction in the orphan and industrial schools of the Colony. The amounts set against these schools represent the total cost incurred in maintenance. The total amount shown to have been expended for education exceeds that of the previous year by 129,204*l.* NEW SOUTH WALES.

The return of the New South Wales Academy of Art is for the year ending 31st May 1879; it contains the usual amount of information. Academy of Art.

The number of visitors to the Museum during the year 1878 was 96,830. The cost of maintenance was 3,335*l.*, of which sum 1,930*l.* was expended in purchases and 1,405*l.* as salaries and wages. The total cost of the building is given as 34,749*l.* Australian Museum.

The number of visitors to the Free Public Library during the year 1878 is stated to have been 117,047. The number of volumes, pamphlets, and parts in the Library was 37,143. The amount of aid from Government during the year was 5,878*l.*, and the estimated value of private contributions is put down at 102*l.* Free Public Library.

The number of convictions obtained during the year 1878 in the supreme and circuit courts of the Colony was 276, and in courts of quarter sessions 710, making a total of 986 cases. Of these, 653 are reported as felonies and 333 as misdemeanors. The return of apprehensions by the police during the year 1878 shows that persons were taken into custody for the commission of 30,718 offences. Out of this number 56 per cent. are for charges of drunkenness, and that in nearly 86 per cent. of these cases convictions were obtained. Of other offences there were 63·56 per cent. convictions, 12·48 per cent. committals, and 23·96 per cent. resulted in discharges. Crime.

PART III.

Trade and Commerce.

The general total value of imports for the year 1878 amounted to 14,768,873*l.*, and of exports to 12,965,879*l.*, making a total trade of 27,734,752*l.* The excess of imports to exports amounted in value to 1,802,994*l.* The value of imports per head of mean population was 21*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, and of exports 19*l.* 2*s.* 5¾*d.* Imports from the United Kingdom exceeded exports thither by 1,142,191*l.* Our exports to British Colonies amounted to 265,261*l.* over imports from these Colonies. Foreign States show an excess of imports of 926,064*l.* over our exports thither. Imports and exports.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following figures show the value of imports and exports from and to each of the under-mentioned countries:—

Countries.	Imports from	Exports to	Excess of Imports.	Excess of Exports.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom (seaward) -	6,658,628	5,516,437	1,142,191	—
BRITISH COLONIES.				
Victoria - seaward -	1,539,788	1,032,795	506,993	—
Victoria - overland -	1,357,715	2,661,639	—	1,303,924
	2,897,503	3,694,434	—	796,931
South Australia seaward -	502,486	98,888	403,598	—
South Australia overland -	387,205	954,754	—	567,549
	889,691	1,053,642	—	163,951
Queensland - seaward -	1,803,843	1,160,892	642,951	—
Queensland - overland -	9,919	60,729	—	50,810
	1,813,762	1,221,621	592,141	—
Other British Colonies - -	1,099,528	996,048	103,480	—
Total British Colonies -	6,700,484	6,965,745	—	265,261
Total Foreign States -	1,409,761	483,697	926,064	—
Total - seaward -	13,014,034	9,288,757	3,727,277	—
Total - overland -	1,754,839	3,677,122	—	1,922,283
General total - -	14,768,873	12,965,879	1,802,994	—

The total value of wool exported during the year 1878, being the produce and manufacture of the Colony, amounted in value to 5,723,316*l.* The value of wool exported to the Colony of Victoria was 2,153,399*l.*, which shows a decrease of 92,515*l.* on the export of the previous year.

Shipping.

The general total of vessels entering the various ports of the Colony during the year 1878, including repeated voyages, was 2,469, comprising 1,580 sailing and 889 steam vessels. Of these, 1,676 entered with cargoes and 793 in ballast. Of the total number, I find under the head of "British Possessions" and "British" there were 2,282; American, 91; French, 37; and the remainder under various other nationalities. The two principal ports of the Colony, viz., Sydney and Newcastle, show the arrival of 1,242 and 1,153 vessels respectively. The number of vessels leaving the various ports of the Colony is shown to have been 2,387, comprising 1,558 sailing and 829 steam vessels. From these it will be seen that 2,207 are described as belonging to "British Possessions" and "British," 84 American, and 34 French. From those which cleared I find that 2,273 vessels were from Sydney and Newcastle, the former port showing 866 and

the latter 1,407. There were 49 vessels built in the Colony in the year 1878, of an aggregate of 3,442 tons. Vessels registered in the year numbered 96, of an aggregate of 12,503 tons. NEW SOUTH WALES.

PART IV.

Mills and Manufactures.

The number of mills working during the year 1878 for grinding and dressing grain is shown to have been 165, the motive power being as follows:—Steam, 152; water, 10; wind, 1; horse-power, 2. The number of pairs of stones in operation was 395, and 664 persons were employed. The general total number of manufactories, works, &c. in the Colony during the year 1878 was 2,557, which gave employment to 24,788 persons, comprising 21,556 males and 3,232 females. The number in the metropolitan district was 852, with 14,433 hands; and in the country districts 1,705, with 10,255 hands. Mills. Manufactories, &c.

The following figures show the distribution of manufactories and works:—

—	No. of Manufactories.	No. of Hands employed.
Connected with or dependent on agriculture -	169	2,097
Working on raw materials, the production of the pastoral interest - - - - -	318	2,294
Manufacture of food of which the raw material is not the production of agriculture, and of articles of drink - - - - - -	247	1,962
Building materials and plastic manufactures -	774	4,603
Machine manufactories, brass, lead, and iron works	166	2,035
Miscellaneous works - - - -	883	11,797
Totals - - -	2,557	24,788

There were 9 woollen manufactories in operation during the year 1878, the owner of one of which declined to supply any information. From 8 of these establishments 330,037 yards of cloth and tweeds were manufactured, which afforded employment to 198 persons. Woollens.

There were 32 of these establishments during the year 1878. The quantity of soap turned out amounted to 77,655 cwt., and of candles 35,282 cwt. This industry employed 153 persons. Soap and Candles.

The number of tobacco manufactories for the year 1878 was 18, employing 474 hands, and producing 17,325 cwt. of tobacco. Tobacco.

The number of sugar mills for the year 1878 was 75, of which 16 were reported as not working. These mills gave employment to 1,158 persons, and produced 163,263 cwt. of sugar and 532,825 gallons of molasses. Sugar Manufactories.

There were 124,156 proof gallons of rum distilled from molasses during the year 1878. Distilled spirits.

New South Wales.

Part V.

Production.

Gold. The total quantity of gold sent by escort in the year 1878 from the several gold districts of the Colony, and received at the Sydney Branch of the Royal Mint, was 75,492 ounces, valued at 279,166*l.* The following figures show the districts which supplied this quantity:—

——	No. of Ounces.	Value.
		£
Western - - -	50,370	182,720
Southern - -	19,783	76,250
Northern - -	5,339	20,196
Totals - -	75,492	279,166

The total quantity of New South Wales gold received for coinage was 107,347 ounces, of the value of 382,741*l.*

Coal. From the return of the several coal mines of the Colony, I find that in the year 1878 there were 40 mines. Of these 9 are stated to be not at work, 1 sinking main shaft, 1 engaged in driving, and 1 not raising coal. The production of coal will then be from 28 mines. The total quantity raised amounted to 1,575,497 tons, valued at 915,228*l.* The number of miners employed was 4,810. The average price was 11*s.* 7½*d.* per ton.

Shale. There were 3 mines producing shale during the year 1878, giving employment to 202 miners. The quantity raised was 24,371 tons, valued at 57,211*l.*, which gives an average price of 8*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

Copper. There were 5 copper mines in operation during the year 1878, which employed 534 miners. The quantity of ore and metal produced was 3,939 tons, valued at 166,202*l.*

Tin. The tin ore raised during the year amounted to 4,542 tons, of the value of 92,322*l.*

Live stock. The total number of live stock in each police district of the Colony for the year ending 31st March 1879 was 27,295,424, the property of 35,435 stockholders. The following are the numbers of each description of stock:—Horses, 336,468; horned cattle, 2,771,583; sheep, 23,967,053; pigs, 220,320.

Agriculture. The agricultural returns to the 31st March 1879, show that there were 378,876 occupiers of land (excluding those for pastoral purposes). The total extent of holdings was 21,471,596 acres; of this area 613,642 acres were in cultivation, 15,903,803 acres were enclosed but not in cultivation, and 4,954,150 acres were

unenclosed. The following figures show the area occupied by and the produce obtained from each crop:— NEW SOUTH WALES.

—	Acres.	Produce.
Wheat	233,252	3,439,326 bushels.
Maize	130,582	4,420,580 „
Barley	6,152	132,072 „
Oats	22,129	447,912 „
Rye	1,302	22,563 „
Millet	255	5,023 „
Potatoes	16,725	53,590 tons.
Tobacco	835	7,932 cwt.
Arrowroot	27	47,484 lbs.
Sorghum and imphee	47	1,735 cwt.
Sugar cane { productive	2,950	18,278,736 lbs.
Sugar cane { unproductive	4,489	
Sown grasses, oats, wheat, and barley for hay.	104,096	172,406 tons.
Vines	4,237	Wine—684,733 gallons. Brandy—2,540 „ Fruit for table use—1,102 tons.
Green food for cattle	60,249	
Gardens and orchards	18,018	
Orangeries	4,287	3,398,445 dozen.

PART VI.

Monetary and Financial.

Coin, bullion, &c.

The amount of coin and bullion in the Branch Royal Mint and several banks of the Colony on 31st December 1878 was 2,281,800*l.*, and the amount of notes in circulation at the same date was 1,238,350*l.*, the average of the year amounting to 1,168,745*l.*

Savings' Bank.

The total amount in the Savings' Bank on 31st December 1878, to the credit of 32,644 depositors, was 1,333,017*l.* The number of depositors in Sydney was 25,906, with 1,051,517*l.* to their credit, and those in the country districts numbered 6,738, with a credit of 281,500*l.* The rate of interest paid to depositors on accounts not exceeding 100*l.* was 5 per cent. per annum, and the rate charged for money lent on mortgage was 5½ and 6 per cent. per annum.

Government Savings' Banks.

The number of Government savings' banks throughout the Colony in the year 1878 was 166. The number of accounts open at the beginning of the year was 16,065. There were 9,853 accounts opened during the year 1878, and 6,961 closed during the same period, leaving 18,957 accounts open at the close of the year. The balance at credit of depositors on the 1st January 1878 amounted to 467,452*l.*, and that at the close of the year was 480,025*l.*

Railways.

The total length of our railway lines for the year 1878 was 688½ miles. The number of passengers carried was 3,705,733, and the weight of goods amounted to 1,594,983 tons. The total

NEW SOUTH WALES.

earnings amounted to 902,989*l.*, and the expenditure for working was 536,989*l.*, leaving the sum of 366,000*l.* as net earnings The following figures distinguish the trade on the Southern, Western, and Richmond Lines from the Northern Line:—

—	No. of Miles.	No. of Passengers carried.	Amount from Passenger Traffic.	Amount of Goods carried.	Receipts from Goods.	Miscellaneous.	Total Earnings.	Working Expenses.
			£	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Southern, Western, and Richmond.	501	3,221,353	239,820	488,053	418,669	1,560	660,050	401,647
Northern -	187½	484,380	65,889	1,106,930	176,936	114	242,939	135,341
Totals -	688½	3,705,733	305,709	1,594,983	595,605	1,674	902,989	536,988

Eletric Telegraphs.

The number of telegraph stations in New South Wales in the year 1878 was 236. The number of messages transmitted was 1,124,858. Foreign telegrams numbered 2,814, and New Zealand telegrams 4,615, making a general total of 1,132,287. The total receipts amounted to 98,125*l.* The number of miles of wire was 11,760, and the cost of construction is stated to have been 413,258*l.*

Post Offices.

There were 847 post offices in the year 1878, and 75 receiving offices. The number of persons employed was 1,272, and the extent of postal lines was 20,176 miles. The business of the department was as follows :—Number of letters passing through, 18,159,900, of which 2,220,600 were foreign, 12,782,900 inland, and 3,156,400 town letters. Newspapers, 9,469,200, of which, 1,657,600 were foreign and 7,811,600 were inland. The total number of packets, &c. despatched was 536,800. The total revenue for the year was 155,622*l.*, which includes the amount of postage contributions of the United Kingdom and the Australian Colonies to the cost of Ocean Mail subsidy. The expenditure is shown to have been 248,216*l.*

Money orders.

The number of offices from which money orders could be obtained was 300. The number of orders issued was 142,025, representing the sum of 538,800*l.* The number paid was 129,143 of the value of 487,458*l.*

Immigration.

The total cost of introducing 5,190 persons was 94,739*l.*, appropriated as follows:—Expenses in England in connexion with immigration, 52,051*l.*; gratuities to surgeon-superintendents, masters, officers, and others, 38,374*l.*; lodging, maintenance, salaries, and contingencies, 4,314*l.*

Military expenditure.

The general total amount expended on account of defence and military and naval services for the year 1878 was 109,270*l.* Of this sum, 46,893*l.* was devoted to repairs to military and volunteer buildings, Colonial military stores and gunpowder magazines, and towards completing fortifications on Port Jackson. The perma-

nent and volunteer military forces absorbed 57,199*l.*, and naval services 5,178*l.* NEW SOUTH WALES.

There were 82* boroughs and municipal districts in the Colony in the year 1878. The general total receipts of these amounted to 177,916*l.* Of this sum, ordinary rates produced 68,112*l.*; special rates, 8,697*l.*; subscriptions, &c., 17,074*l.*; loans, &c., 27,102*l.*; and the Government supplied 56,931*l.* The total expenditure amounted to 204,081*l.* Municipalities.

PART VII.

Miscellaneous.

The total amount expended on the finished railways of the Colony at the close of the year 1878 was 9,784,645*l.* The expenditure on unfinished lines to the same date was 493,206*l.*, and the sum expended in the year 1878 was 963,351*l.* Public Works —Railways.

The return of roads and bridges shows that during the year 1878 the sum of 500,745*l.* was expended. This amount includes the following items, issued to trustees from unclassified vote, 5,343*l.*; trustees from minor roads schedule, viz.: Northern District, 10,560*l.*; Southern, 8,679*l.*; Western, 5,042*l.* Roads and bridges.

Harbours and rivers show an expenditure for the year of 218,001*l.* The actual amount expended on finished works of this class was 206,320*l.*, and on unfinished works 672,717*l.* Harbours and rivers.

The amount laid out by the Colonial Architect during the year 1878 on public buildings of the Colony was 263,446*l.* The cost of furniture for the year amounted to 13,401*l.* Public buildings.

The expenditure for the year on sewerage works for Sydney was 21,906*l.*, which, with previous outlay, gives a total cost of 639,386*l.* The waterworks of Sydney show an expenditure for the year of 63,086*l.*, which brings up the total cost of this undertaking to 1,059,019*l.* The expenditure on both of these last-mentioned works includes salaries, interest, and other expenses. Works, &c. not under immediate supervision of the Government.

The total number of transactions relating to real and leasehold estates registered during the year 1878 was 11,067. The amount of consideration money expressed was 6,722,617*l.* Mortgages on land numbered 2,440, with an aggregate secured amount of 1,981,481*l.* There were 1,350 discharges of mortgage registered, of a total value of 896,445*l.*, and 248 conveyances under mortgage of the value of 158,784*l.* Real and leasehold estates.

The number of these securities registered in the year was 1,027, the amount advanced being 714,273*l.* on the wool of 4,611,696 sheep. Liens on wool.

The number of live stock mortgaged in the year amounted to 2,647,183 sheep, 183,210 horned cattle, and 8,412 horses. The number of these mortgages was 914, securing in the aggregate Mortgages on live stock.

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* No return from three municipal districts, as they were only proclaimed during the last half of the year:—Bourke, 3rd July; Carcoar, 11th November; and Molong, 13th November.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

the sum of 2,059,348*l.* There were also 159 discharges of this class of mortgage registered, representing the sum of 1,037,119*l.*

Liens on growing crops.

The number of these securities registered during the year was 539, amounting to a total sum of 43,186*l.*

Real property.

The number of applications received in the year 1878 for certificates of title under the Real Property Act was 203, embracing 377 properties of an aggregate area of 7,524 acres, valued at 153,195*l.* The following dealings were registered in the year under this Act:—Transfers, 3,607; mortgages, 1,451; discharges, 670; encumbrances, 19; representing a total amount of 4,358,326*l.* There were also 13,303 Crown grants registered, the consideration money for which amounted to 2,068,908*l.*

Publicans' licenses.

The number of publicans' licences issued in the Colony during the year 1878 was 3,312, of which 871 were in the city and suburbs.

Land sales.

The total area of land sold, *otherwise than conditionally*, during the year 1878, amounted to 1,210,692 acres at the sum of 1,441,004*l.* Of this area, 1,176,241 acres are situate in pastoral districts, and 34,450 in settled districts; the former realising 1,395,204*l.*, and the latter 45,800*l.* The area of land taken up during the year under conditional purchase is stated to have been 1,588,247 acres.

The revenue from lands and gold fields for the year 1878 was as follows;—

	£
Under Lands Alienation Act -	1,806,099
„ „ Occupation Act -	211,452
„ „ Gold Fields Act	19,986
Miscellaneous - - -	24,601
Total -	2,062,138

Balances payable in the year 1879 for auction sales amounted to 269,157*l.*, and balances payable in 1881 for conditional purchases to 1,189,519*l.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. GRANT WARD,
Registrar-General.

Statistical View of the Progress of the Colony of New South Wales from the Year 1869 to 1878 inclusive.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Committments for trial.	Convictions.	Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c.	No. of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.				Coal Raised.		Land Sales.	
					Schools.	No. of Scholars.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount actually received.
																tons.	£	acres.	£
1869	485,356	19,243	3,799	6,691	1,304	71,523	1,112	682	183	4,497	482,324½	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924	919,774	346,146	164,890 *397,329	319,613
1870	502,861	19,648	3,848	6,558	1,381	74,503	1,037	601	187	6,862	426,976	337,597	2,195,096	16,308,585	243,066	868,564	316,836	94,374 *329,318	250,843
1871	519,182†	20,143	3,953	6,407	1,450	77,889	1,084	628	190	6,827	417,801	304,100	2,014,888	16,278,697	213,193	898,784	316,340	88,638 *358,682	261,401
1872	539,190	20,250	3,925	7,468	1,464	106,691	1,073	643	188	7,769	454,634	328,408	2,287,660	17,560,048	218,904	1,012,426	396,198	166,834 *749,587	432,373
1873	560,275	21,444	4,384	7,611	1,508	110,287	1,166	647	182	8,268	456,825	334,462	2,794,327	20,501,506	240,680	1,192,862	665,747	390,688 *1391719	845,410
1874	584,278	22,178	4,343	8,652	1,547	119,133	1,311	700	172	9,241	464,957	346,691	2,856,699	22,872,882	219,958	1,304,567	790,225	702,758 *1586282	1,111,041
1875	606,652	22,528	4,605	10,771	1,586	124,756	1,245	707	161	9,744	451,138¾	357,696	3,134,086	24,382,536	199,950	1,329,729	819,430	1,135,274 *1756678	1,760,570
1876	629,776	23,298	4,630	11,193	1,629	131,620	1,391	810	164	10,623	513,840	366,703	3,131,013	24,503,388	173,604	1,319,918	803,300	2,062,138 1,984,212	2,513,404
1877	662,212	23,851	4,994	9,869	1,695	138,267	1,411	817	163	11,911	546,556	328,150	2,746,385	20,962,244	191,677	1,444,271	858,998	2,230,883 1,699,816	2,967,857
1878	693,743	25,328	5,317	10,763	1,744	148,788	1,740	986	165	13,892	613,642	336,468	2,771,583	23,967,053	220,320	1,575,497	915,228	1,214,756 *1588248	2,076,011

* Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861."
Price of land in 1825, 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per acre.
The minimum price of land was 5*s.* per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12*s.* per acre, 1840-2 (20*s.* in Port Phillip in 1841). 20*s.* per acre from 1843 to present time.
In 1822, '3, '4, '5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money; generally in Spanish dollars.
Transportation ceased in 1840.
The return of the revenue and expenditure previous to 1850 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the above expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of convicts and military.
Gold discovered in May 1851.
The loans expenditure previous to 1853 cannot be shown.

† The census was taken in 1821, '2, '3, '5, '8, '33, '6; population as above.
2nd March 1841, population - - 130,856.
2nd March 1846 „ - - 189,609.
1st March 1851 „ - - 187,243.
1st March 1856 „ - - 266,189.
7th April 1861 „ - - 350,860.
2nd April 1871 „ - - 503,981.
The population from the year 1836 is estimated up to the end of each year.

Statistical View of the Progress of the Colony of New South Wales from the Year 1869 to 1878 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the Produce of the Colony.*									Value of Total Imports.*	Value of Total Exports.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Wool.		Tallow.		Oil, &c. Value.	Gold.†		Coal.							
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
					lbs.	£	cwt.	£	£	ozs.	£	tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1869	2,022	741,369	2,236	833,248	51,269,672§	3,162,522§	101,622§	177,059§	4,515	642,358	2,493,869	595,553	298,195	8,392,753§	9,933,442§	2,590,217‡	1,073,292	2,649,329‡	616,476
1870	1,858	689,820	2,066	771,942	47,440,610§	2,741,141§	136,661§	227,819§	3,674	410,547	1,585,736	578,389	267,681	7,757,281§	7,990,038§	2,490,203‡	85,106	2,638,264‡	660,089
1871	1,891	706,019	2,123	794,460	65,611,953§	4,748,160§	158,345§	258,323§	1,275	535,492	2,074,937	565,429	256,690	9,609,508§	11,245,032§	2,908,153‖	1,380,709	3,006,576‖	595,923
1872	2,011	774,490	2,091	813,550	50,233,453§	3,342,900§	107,635§	180,365§	401	543,430	2,111,231	669,110	307,861	9,208,496§	10,447,049§	3,592,979‖	568,436	2,986,186‖	652,437
1873	2,161	874,804	2,212	887,674	31,606,846	2,201,910	66,604	106,288	1,977	665,676	2,590,145	773,079	526,089	10,471,483	9,387,873	3,937,410‖	217,270	2,333,166‖	427,286
1874	2,217	1,016,369	2,168	974,525	75,156,924§	5,010,125§	67,053§	104,151§	3,257	482,076	1,875,081	872,980	632,247	11,293,739§	12,345,603§	4,664,568‖	365,560	4,426,040‖	575,732
1875	2,376	1,109,086	2,294	1,059,101	87,534,280	5,651,643	69,558§	112,072§	1,327	552,592	2,097,740	927,007	671,483	13,490,200§	13,671,580§	5,989,697‖	902,358	5,117,903‖	1,255,224
1876	2,313	1,074,425	2,265	1,053,300	100,736,330	5,565,173	77,539§	124,834§	322	410,330	1,589,854	868,817	625,211	13,672,776§	13,003,941§	6,961,887‖	1220505¶	6,030,410‖	1,198,333
1877	2,361	1,136,206	2,301	1,101,775	102,150,246	5,256,038	90,169§	147,790§	2,842	468,518	1,824,188	915,727	648,977	14,606,594§	13,125,819§	7,541,583‖	1,025,839	6,984,462‖	1,020,877
1878	2,469	1,267,374	2,387	1,192,130	111,833,017	5,723,316	60,035§	96,076§	1,846	436,766	1,699,953	1,006,420	708,406	14,768,873	12,965,879	6,708,047‖ **	750,095	7,152,479‖ ††	1,018,276

* Exclusive of the overland traffic.
† Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies and converted into bars and coin.
‡ The revenue and expenditure columns include "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27th Vict., No. 11.
§ Inclusive of the overland traffic.
‖ Includes Trust Fund, Treasury Bills, &c.
¶ Includes 250,000*l.* advances from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
** Includes 200,000*l.* repaid in part to the Consolidated Revenue Fund advanced to Loan Fund.
†† Includes advances from Consolidated Revenue Fund to Loan Fund 550,000*l.*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 2.

Governor Sir HARRY ST. GEORGE ORD, K.C.M.G., C.B., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Perth,
October 7th, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1878.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. ST. GEORGE ORD.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT upon the BLUE BOOK for 1878.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year 1878, which amounted to 163,344*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with that of 1877, shows a decrease of only 2,068*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

This small decrease is owing to the falling off in the customs, attributable to the late arrival of the tea ships, the customs receipts from which were not received till January in the present year.

The large sum received under the head of special receipts is entirely on account of royalty on Guano being 6,654*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the receipts in 1877. Small increases were derived under many other heads of service. The falling off in land sales, which only realised 5,619*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, was chiefly owing to the continual depression in trade and losses sustained from dry seasons.

Very little change took place in the receipts from land revenue as compared with the previous year, but this may be explained by the delay caused from the re-arrangement of boundaries under the new land regulations, it is, however, anticipated that a large increase in land revenue will be received in the present year.

The falling off in the revenue from the north district is chiefly owing to the depressed state of the pearl shell market in London.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year amounted to 198,243*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, being 34,898*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in excess of the revenue, and 31,028*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* in excess of the estimated expenditure.

This heavy excess of expenditure is principally owing to disbursements amounting to 16,738*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, made on account of works undertaken in anticipation of the public works loan of 200,000*l.*, which, however, was not floated until April of the present year, and also for services authorised by the Legislature over and above the estimated expenditure.

The amount disbursed on account of services provided for out of the loan, will, of course, be recouped to the general revenue during 1879.

Public Debt.

The new loan of 200,000*l.* authorised in 1878, not having been floated within the year, the public debt of the Colony remained at 161,000*l.*

Volunteers.

The volunteer force has been increased by an additional company of rifles at Albany, making the total force of all ranks 550.

The formation of a naval brigade at Fremantle has been sanctioned.

The total expenditure on account of the volunteer force during the year amounted to 997*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

Imperial Expenditure.

The expenditure under this head of service amounted at the close of the year to 57,210*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, showing a decrease of 13,762*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* on the expenditure of the previous year, due to the diminution in the number of convicts in prison, and the disbandment of part of the pensioner force.

Public Works.

No public works of any great magnitude were undertaken during 1878.

Legislation.

Thirty-two Acts of Council were passed during the session of 1878, the most important being the Public Works Loan Act for raising 200,000*l.*, and an Act to authorise the construction of a railway from Fremantle to Guildford.

Population.

The total population when the last census of the Colony was taken was estimated at 28,166. The year 1881 has been fixed

for taking the regular census, so as to be in accord with the date at which it is now taken at home, and in every other Colony.

Education.

At the end of 1878 there were 81 schools in the Colony, showing an increase of eight schools as against the previous year.

Imports and Exports.

The imports in the year 1878 amounted in value to 379,049*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, showing an increase of 16,343*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* on the imports of 1877.

The value of the exports during the year amounted to 428,491*l.* 3*s.*, as against 373,351*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in 1877, showing an increase of 55,139*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*

Crime.

The criminal statistics show a considerable diminution in crime, the majority of offences being confined to cases within the jurisdiction of the inferior courts.

Land.

The amount of land sold during 1878 was 14,852 acres, viz., rural lands, 14,712 acres; town and suburban, 140 acres; the total amount received under this head of land sales being 5,619*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

I append a return which has been drawn up by the manager of the branch of the Union Bank of Australia established in this Colony, which shows how large have been the accumulations of the Colony during the last nine years.

ACCUMULATIONS. COLONY of WESTERN AUSTRALIA, taken from BANKING STATISTICS for Nine Years ending 1st April 1879.

—	Circulation.		Increase.	Rate per cent.	Deposits bearing Interest		Increase.	Rate per cent.	Deposits not bearing Interest.		Increase.	Rate per cent.	—
	1870.	1879.			1870.	1879.			1870.	1879.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
West Australian Bank	6,336	9,558	3,222	50·85	34,665	55,506	20,841	60·12	67,362	137,478*	70,116	104·08	
National Bank of Australasia.	5,818	7,532	1,714	29·40	17,589	71,156	53,567	304·54	28,658	37,774	9,116	31·80	
Union Bank of Australia.	—	2,398	2,398	—	—	30,449	30,449	—	—	8,695	8,695	—	
	12,154	19,488	7,334	60·34	52,254	157,111	104,857	200·66 = 22·29 per cent. per annum.	96,020	183,947	87,927	91·57 = 10·17 per cent. per annum.	292·23 per cent. increase. 32·47 per cent. per annum.

Exclusive of the operations of the Union Bank of Australia, the accumulations show an increase of 224·90 = 24·98 per cent. per annum.

* This includes 43,874*l.* reserved profits, of course an accumulation, but pertaining to only a limited number of persons, shareholders in the West Australian Bank.

Union Bank of Australia, Perth, West Australia,
31st October 1879.

(Signed) I. T. DENNY,
Manager.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 3.

Governor Sir H. ROBINSON, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Wellington,
SIR, December 5, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward the statistics of New Zealand for the year 1878, with abstracts from the agricultural statistics of the Colony for the year 1879.

2. Prefixed to the volume will be found a report upon the contents of it by the Registrar-General, and a table giving a statistical view of the progress of New Zealaud for the last 25 years—namely, from 1854 to 1878 inclusive. Both the report and the table might, I think, with advantage be reproduced in the papers relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, usually presented to Parliament.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

STATISTICS of NEW ZEALAND, 1878.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
SIR, November 3, 1879.

IN submitting the volume of statistics for 1878 I have to observe that the compilation of the tables relating to law and crime, and to local bodies (Part VI.), will, I fear, always be so much delayed as to prevent a very early publication of the volume as a whole. The large number of courts and local bodies to which applications have to be made for returns, the negligent manner in which these returns are too frequently made up, necessitating a critical examination in this department, and the loss of time consequent on such examination and in the effort to obtain replies to queries, amended returns, and wanting returns supplied, will sufficiently account for a considerable delay, especially in view of the fact that the returns of the local bodies cannot be made up until after the expiration of their financial year, which terminates on the 31st March.

PART I.—BLUE BOOK.

The additions and alterations incident to the year 1878 have been included, so as to complete the historical record to the end of that year.

PART II.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population on the 31st December 1878, was 432,519. In my last year's report I pointed out that the estimate for December 1877, tested by the census returns of 3rd March 1878, was incorrect by some 9,004 persons; the probable cause of this difference was considered to be attributable to the number of persons leaving the colony by sea, of whom no record is kept at any port of departure. The increase of the population, by excess of births over deaths, amounted during the year to 13,125, or 954 more than the similar increase in 1877. The increase during the year, by excess of immigration over emigration, amounted to 10,502: the total net increase of the population during the year amounting to 23,627 persons, an increase during the year at the rate of 5·78 per cent.

Immigration.—The total arrivals in New Zealand during the year amounted to 16,263 persons, of whom 10,671 were males and 5,592 females. Of the males, 9,421 were adults (or over 12 years of age), and 1,250 were children; of the females, 4,477 were adults and 1,115 were children. The number of immigrants brought to the Colony at the public expense amounted to 6,618; the unassisted immigrants numbered 9,645, of whom 1,025 were Chinese. Of the unassisted immigrants, 6,348 arrived from the Australian Colonies and Tasmania, in which are included 945 of the Chinese who arrived from Australia; 2,629 arrived from the United Kingdom, 589 from Fiji, Hawaii, and South Sea (arrivals by the San Francisco steamers are entered in the customs as from Hawaii), and 79 from other ports.

Emigration.—The number of persons returned as having left the Colony during 1878 amounted to 5,761, of whom 838 went direct to the United Kingdom, 4,316 to the Australian Colonies, and 607 to other places, the passengers *viâ* San Francisco having been entered as for Hawaii. There is, as regards the Australian Colonies, an apparent excess of immigration over emigration, but it is manifest from the last census returns that a complete record of the number of persons leaving New Zealand coasts is not kept, and, therefore, the accuracy of the above excess may be open to doubt.

Aliens Naturalized. — Eighty-four natives of Foreign States were naturalized in 1878. Of these, 32 were natives of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark; 34 were from German States and Austria, and 18 from various other countries.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The living births registered in 1878 amounted to 17,770, an increase on the births in 1877 of 914. The births in

1878 were at the rate of 41·96 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population. This is higher than the English rate, which averages about 35·5 per 1,000.

Sex.—Of the children born alive, 8,954 were males and 8,816 were females, being at the rate of 101·5 males to every 100 females; this decrease in the proportion of male births is noticeable. During the four previous years in New Zealand the proportions of male births have varied from 104·6 to 106·8 to every 100 female births. In England the proportion is so constant that in 38 years the lowest proportion was 103·5 males to the 100 females, and the highest, 105·4 males to the 100 females. This proportion appears, therefore, to be ruled by some natural law, the results of which are continuously nearly uniform. As the previous uniform higher proportion of male births in New Zealand indicates that the same law operates here, a sudden departure from the uniformity of that law, a decrease in the proportion to an extent unknown in England, is a remarkable circumstance.

Illegitimate Births.—The number of illegitimate births registered amounted to 429, or 2·41 per cent. of the total births. This is somewhat higher than the proportion of illegitimate births in 1877 (2·08), but still considerably lower than the English rate, which in 1876 was 4·7 per cent., and progressively higher in previous years.

Marriages.—The number of marriages solemnised in 1878 amountad to 3,377, an increase on the number in 1877 of 263. The proportion of persons married in 1878 to every 1,000 living having been 15·94, against a proportion of 15·24 per 1,000 in 1877. The number per 1,000 married in 1878 was low compared with the numbers in 1874, 1875, and 1876, when they ranged from 16·50 to 17·88 per 1,000.

Forms of Marriage.—949 of the marriages, or 28 per cent. of total number, were solemnised by ministers of one or other of the two Presbyterian Churches in New Zealand; 848, or 25·11 per cent., solemnised by ministers of the Church of England; 390, or 11·55 per cent., by ministers of the Roman Catholic Church; 315, or 9·32 per cent., by ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Society; 294 by ministers of other denominations; 581 marriages, or 17·2 per cent., were performed by registrars, an increase on the marriages by registrars in 1877 of 56 in number, and 0·34 per cent. in the proportion.

Signature of Marriage Registers.—100 men, or 2·96 per cent. of the number married, signed the register with marks, the proportion having been 3·95 per cent. in 1877. Of the women who married, 232, or 6·87 per cent., signed the register with marks; this proportion is also, to a marked degree, lower than the similar proportion, 8·54 per cent., in 1877.

Ages of Persons Married.—The Marriage Acts permit officiating ministers to enter the words "full age" or "minor," instead of the exact age, in the marriage register. This permission, intended rather to meet objections by either of the parties to a statement of age, has been adopted by many ministers as a rule of action.

NEW ZEALAND.

This is to be regretted, for as the particulars given on the register are meagre, the age might, in doubtful cases, when the copy of the register is used as evidence, assist in deciding the question of identification. As, however, it is necessary that a declaration of age should be made to the registrar prior to the issue of the certificate, the ages are ascertainable in the department for statistical purposes. Of the 3,377 women who married in 1877, 1,029, or 30·47 per cent., were under 21 years of age. This proportion exactly agrees with that in 1877 (also 30·47). 12 of the women married were under 16 years of age; 1,263, or 37·4 per cent., were at the ages 21–25, and 630, or 18·65 per cent., at the ages 25–30; two women upwards of 60 were married. Of the men who married, 62, or 1·84 per cent., were under 21 years of age, the proportion at the same age in 1877 having been 1·35 per cent.

The following are the proportions at each age period of men and women married to every 100 marriages in the last two years:—

Ages.	1877.		1878.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Under 21 - -	1·35	30·47	1·84	30·47
21–25 - -	27·65	39·01	27·33	37·4
25–30 - -	31·12	16·84	32·28	18·65
30–40 - -	29·93	9·98	28·84	10·45
40–50 - -	7·58	2·66	7·88	2·52
50–60 - -	1·67	0·86	1·30	0·44
60–70 - -	0·58	(3 marriages)	0·41	(2 marriages)
70 and upwards -	(1 marriage)		0·12	

The mean age at marriage in 1878 may be approximately stated to have been 30 years for men and 24 years for women.

Deaths.—The deaths in 1878 numbered 4,645, equivalent to 10·96 per 1,000 of the population; the rate in 1877 having been 11·47. With the exception of the year 1871, this was the lowest death rate for 10 years, and is in striking contrast to the higher death rates that obtained in 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1876—the rate in 1875 having reached as high as 15·92 per 1,000. The mean annual death rate in England for 29 years, ending in 1875, was 22·5 per 1,000; and for the English rural registration districts only it was 19·8 per 1,000. Of the deaths in 1878, 2,022, or 43·53 per cent. were of children under 5 years of age; the per-centage of such deaths in 1877 having been 46.

The deaths of children under 1 year amounted in 1878 to 1,486, or 8·36 per cent. of the births. The infant mortality was thus absolutely and proportionately less than in 1877, when the number of such deaths was 1,527, or 9·06 per cent. of the births; the proportions in 1875 and 1876 having been 12·58 and 10·35.

When compared with the infant mortality in England the above rate appears to great advantage. In all England in 1875 the deaths under 1 year amounted to 158 per 1,000 births, or

15·8 per cent. In the 18 large towns the rate varied from 13·3 per cent., the lowest in Portsmouth, to 24·5 per cent. in Leicester. The infant mortality in seven of the New Zealand boroughs is given in the subjoined table.

Deaths of children under 1 year to every 100 births :—

—	1876.	1877.	1878.
Auckland - - - -	15·2	10·3	11·0
Thames - - - -	6·5	8·3	16·1
Wellington - - - -	15·2	14·6	12·8
Nelson - - - - -	10·3	8·8	14·3
Christchurch - - - -	19·3	13·6	13·0
Dunedin - - - -	10·9	8·8	9·0
Hokitika - - - -	16·1	9·2	9·3

The mean for all these boroughs for 1878 was 11·76 per cent.

If the births and deaths for the above boroughs be excluded, the infant mortality for the rest of the Colony is reduced to 7·48 deaths under 1 year to every 100 births. The mean of 12 districts in England, having a low rate of infant mortality in 1875, was 11·0 per cent.

Sexes of Deceased Persons.—Of the deaths, 2,719 were of males and 1,926 were of females, or 11·57 per 1,000 of the male population and 10·31 per 1,000 of the females; a mortality in equal numbers living of 112 males to 100 females.

Causes of Death.—The following table gives the classification of diseases which have terminated fatally, with the per-centage of each class and order of disease to the total mortality in 1877 and 1878 :—

—	1877.	1878.
CLASS. I.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		
Order 1. Miasmatic diseases - - - -	21·62	18·13
„ 2. Enthetic „ - - - -	0·34	0·34
„ 3. Dietic „ - - - -	2·54	2·24
„ 4. Parasitic „ - - - -	0·60	0·77
	25·10	21·48
CLASS II.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Diathetic diseases - - - -	2·20	3·01
„ 2. Tubercular „ - - - -	10·93	11·05
	13·13	14·06
CLASS III.—LOCAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Nervous diseases - - - -	10·89	11·17
„ 2. Circulation, diseases of - - -	5·44	5·96
„ 3. Respiratory organs, diseases of - -	10·26	10·86
„ 4. Digestive organs „ - -	6·72	7·70
„ 5. Urinary organs „ - -	1·45	1·79
„ 6. Generative organs „ - -	0·26	0·24
„ 7. Locomotive organs „ - -	0·26	0·15
„ 8. Integumentary system „ - -	0·43	0·28
	35·71	38·15

	1877.	1878.
CLASS IV.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.		
Order 1. Children, diseases of - - - -	5·70	5·49
„ 2. Adults „ - - - -	1·45	1·90
„ 3. Old people „ - - - -	1·52	2·47
„ 4. Nutrition „ - - - -	5·61	5·41
	14·28	15·27
CLASS V.—VIOLENCE.		
Order 1. Accident or negligence - - -	9·63	9·17
„ 3. Homicide - - - - -	0·30	0·11
„ 4. Suicide - - - - -	0·68	0·79
„ 5. Execution - - - - -	0·04	—
	10·65	10·07
Causes of death not specified - - - -	1·13	0·97

Zymotic Diseases.—There was a decrease in the deaths in this class of 178 as compared with 1877, chiefly caused by the reduced number of deaths from scarlet fever. This disease has caused 195 deaths in 1877, and 34 in 1878. The deaths from diptheria decreased from 57 to 39; deaths from whooping cough decreased from 142 to 126; and deaths from typhus, typhoid, and continued fevers decreased from 133 to 131; the deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa increased from 331 to 403. This increase was nearly wholly caused by the larger number of deaths of children under 5 years from those causes.

Constitutional Diseases.—The deaths in this class increased from 615 in 1877 to 653 in 1878. Deaths from dropsy increased from 19 to 40, and deaths from cancer from 77 to 93; but while the deaths of males from cancer increased from 34 to 55, the deaths of females decreased from 43 to 38. It is very remarkable that the deaths from phthisis were the same in both years in respect of each sex, having been, both in 1877 and 1878, males 186 and females 140. The deaths from hydrocephalus increased from 85 to 102.

Local Diseases.—There was an increase in the deaths of this class from 1,673 to 1,772. The principal increases were in diseases of the organs of circulation (22), viz., from 255 to 277; diseases of the respiratory organs (23), viz., from 481 to 504; and diseases of the digestive organs (43), viz., from 315 to 358.

Developmental Diseases.—Deaths in this class were 669 in 1877, and 709 in 1878, an increase of 40. Developmental diseases of children caused 12 fewer deaths than in 1877, but the deaths of adults increased from 68 to 88; of these, the deaths from childbirth (exclusive of deaths from metria) increased from 59 to 72. The deaths from old age increased in number from 71 to 115; of those in 1878, 40 were of persons over 80 years of age.

Violent Deaths.—The deaths of 390 males and 78 females are recorded in this class; of these, 358 males and 68 females died from accidents, viz., 128 males and 9 females from fractures and contusions, and 131 males and 20 females from drowning; the others were from various causes; 30 males and 7 females committed suicide.

Hospitals.—In 1878 there were 28 hospitals in the Colony, into which 3,301 males and 1,002 females were admitted as patients during the year. Including the inmates at the commencement of the year, 3,730 males and 1,105 female inmates received relief during the year. There were beds in these hospitals to accommodate 776 male and 273 female patients in 129 sleeping wards.

Lunatic Asylums.—There were 8 lunatic asylums in the Colony in 1878, which contained, at the end of the year, 949 patients, of whom 636 were males and 319 females, being an increase of 56 male and 26 female patients upon the number of inmates at the beginning of the year. Of the above patients, 225 males and 102 females were supposed to be curable, and 411 males and 211 females were supposed to be incurable. 250 males and 131 females were admitted during the year. 143 males and 88 females were discharged, and 51 males and 17 females died. The asylums in the aggregate afford sleeping accommodation for 600 males and 325 females; the surplus number in 1878 having had to sleep in dayrooms.

Industrial and Reformatory Schools.—There are 4 of these schools in the Colony, including the Naval Training School. They are situated respectively at Auckland; at Burnham, near Christchurch; at Caversham, near Dunedin; and the Naval Training School at Kohimarama, near Auckland. On the 31st December 1878 they contained 517 children, viz., 342 boys (of whom 55 were in the Naval Training School) and 175 girls; a decrease of 20 in the number of boys and an increase of 4 in the number of girls, as compared with the numbers in 1877.

PART III.—TRADE AND INTERCHANGE.

Shipping.—The total shipping inwards at the various ports of the Colony was 926 vessels of 456,490 tonnage, being an increase as compared with 1877 of 114 in the number of vessels, and 67,922 in the tonnage. Of the shipping inwards, 146 vessels of 134,690 tonnage arrived from the United Kingdom; 604 vessels of 252,421 tonnage from the Australian Colonies and Tasmania; 95 vessels of 37,659 tonnage from the islands in the Pacific (the arrivals from the Sandwich Islands included the American mail steamers which called there); 25 vessels of 13,398 tonnage from the United States of America; 12 vessels of 3,238 tonnage from China (Hong Kong); 20 vessels of 6,149 tonnage from the Mauritius; 6 vessels of 3,628 tonnage from Bengal; and 18 vessels of 5,307 tonnage from other ports and the Southern Whale Fishery

NEW ZEALAND.

The total shipping outwards was 886 vessels of 428,493 tonnage, being an increase as compared with 1877 of 38 in the number of ships, and 27,884 in the tonnage. Of the shipping outwards, 84 vessels of 76,850 tonnage cleared for the United Kingdom, all with cargoes; 614 vessels of 267,010 tonnage for the Australian Colonies and Tasmania; 101 vessels of 38,567 tonnage for the Pacific Islands, of which 3 were in ballast (American mail steamers calling at Hawaii are included in the clearances for the Sandwich Islands); 23 vessels of 19,613 tonnage for the United States, of which 17 were in ballast; 12 vessels of 7,845 tonnage for Chili, of which 11 were in ballast; 20 vessels for Guam, of which 16 were in ballast; and 32 vessels of 13,066 tonnage, of which 9 were in ballast, for other ports and the Southern Whale Fishery.

Registered Vessels.—The number of registered vessels belonging to ports in New Zealand on the 31st December 1878 amounted to 541 of 46,965 tonnage, viz., 434 sailing vessels of 35,420 tonnage, and 107 steam vessels of 11,545 tonnage.

The amount of tonnage belonging to each port was as follows: Auckland, 15,792; Napier, 740; Wellington, 8,260; Nelson, 1,023; Lyttelton, 6,283; Dunedin, 14,035; Invercargill, 832.

Imports and Exports.—The total value of the imports in 1878 was 8,755,667*l.*, against 6,973,418*l.* in 1877, being an increase of 1,782,249*l.* The total value of the exports was 6,015,700*l.*, against 6,327,472*l.* in 1877, or excluding imported goods exported, 5,780,508*l.* in 1878 against 6,078,484*l.* in 1877.

Value of Total Trade.—The total trade of the Colony as represented by imports and exports amounted in 1878 to 14,771,363*l.*, or 34*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.* per head of the mean population (excluding the aboriginal natives), an increase on the trade in 1877 to the extent of 2*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* per head. I am compelled here, as in former reports, to draw attention to the incorrectness of the above figures in consequence of no allowance having been made on account of the Maori population. There are no data to indicate to what extent they are consumers of imports, although in some districts their mode of life and costume assimilate to a greater or less extent to those of Europeans. Assuming, as I did last year, that every five Maoris consume imports to the same extent as two Europeans, as their production of exports is very small, the total trade per head of the population other than Maori would be reduced by almost 17*s.* 6*d.* per head.

The trade with the United Kingdom amounted to 10,060,412*l.*; that with Victoria to 2,194,092*l.*; that with New South Wales to 1,028,929*l.*; that with Tasmania to 131,389*l.*; that with the United States to 476,515*l.*; that with Mauritius to 223,383*l.*; that with China to 186,887*l.*; and that with India to 131,145*l.* The balance was distributed between other countries.

The imports and exports per head of the mean population in 1878 were as follow:—

—	Mean Population in 1878, exclusive of Maoris.	Exports per Head of the Population.
Imports.		
£		£ s. d.
8,755,667	423,465	20 13 6¼
Exports.		
£		
6,015,700	423,465	14 4 1¼

In 1877 the imports amounted to 17*l.* 1*s.* 6½*d.*, and the exports to 15*l.* 9*s.* 10¾*d.* per head.

Imports.—The following figures show the increase or decrease of the imports in the provincial district in 1878, as compared with 1877 :—

Auckland -	- Increase	£296,231	or 25·45 per cent.
Taranaki -	- „	6,887	or 37·08 „
Hawke's Bay	- „	31,463	or 20·61 „
Wellington -	- „	158,392	or 11·55 „
Marlborough	- „	1,109	or 10·55 „
Nelson -	- „	34,858	or 14·70 „
Westland -	- Decrease	26,677	or 9·77 „
Canterbury -	- Increase	702,414	or 52·07 „
Otago -	- „	577,568	or 24·08 „

A comparison of the total value of imports in 1877 and 1878, according to the countries whence they were received, gives the following results :—

—	1877.	1878.	Increase.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	4,115,544	5,333,170	1,217,626
British Colonies - -	2,559,264	2,912,498	353,234
Foreign States - -	298,610	509,995	211,385

The chief increases or decreases in the values of imports from the British Possessions were as follow :—

—	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Queensland - - - -	—	1,843
New South Wales - - -	114,683	—
Victoria - - - -	9,837	—
South Australia - - -	—	22,234
Tasmania - - - -	10,066	—
Western Australia - - -	—	4,899
Mauritius - - - -	44,511	—
China - - - - -	109,438	—
India - - - - -	95,160	—
Fiji Islands - - - -	—	1,212

The chief increases in the imports from foreign states were—

	Increase.
United States - - - -	£162,916
France - - - -	23,238
Peru - - - - -	9,476
Java - - - - -	9,783

The imports from the whale fisheries increased from 2,960*l.* to 9,200*l.*

Gold Exported.—The total value of gold exported from New Zealand in 1878 was 1,244,190*l.*, against 1,476,312*l.* in 1877, a decrease of 232,122*l.*; the amount entered for exportation was 1,240,079*l.* The following table shows the decrease of the amounts entered for exportation in the districts mentioned:—

VALUE of GOLD entered for Duty on Exportation in 1877 and 1878 respectively.

—	1877.	1878.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Produce of the gold fields in the district of Auckland - - - - - -	403,627	220,454	183,173
Produce of the gold fields in the district of Marlborough - - - - -	3,197	1,617	1,580
Produce of the gold fields in the district of Nelson and Westland - - - -	633,915	595,731	38,184
Produce of the gold fields in the district of Otago	455,341	422,277	33,064
Total - - - - -	1,496,080	1,240,079	256,001

The total amount of gold entered for duty on exportation from New Zealand to the 31st December 1878 amounted to 35,005,273*l.*

Wool Exported.—The total quantity of wool exported in 1878 amounted to 59,270,256 lbs. of the declared value of 3,292,807*l.*, against 64,481,324 lbs. of the declared value of 3,658,938*l.* exported in 1877; a decrease of 5,211,068 lbs. in quantity, and of 366,131*l.* in declared value. A decrease in the export in any calendar year is not necessarily caused by a decreased production, as an early or late shearing may materially diminish or increase the exports for the ensuing calendar year. The increase of the wool production will be more accurately ascertained by dealing with exports for the year ending on the 30th September *i.e.*, immediately preceding the spring shearing.

The exports for the last six years, ending respectively on the 30th September, were as follow:—

Year ending 30th September.	Wool Exported. lbs.
1873 - - -	42,233,470
1874 - - -	47,424,882
1875 - - -	49,942,148
1876 - - -	55,975,177
1877 - - -	56,520,278
1878 - - -	62,166,251

The wool produce for the last year, therefore, actually increased by 5,645,973 lbs. in weight, and by 355,484*l.* in declared value, instead of being reduced in quantity as might otherwise appear from the comparative exports for the calendar years 1877 and 1878.

Value of Exports to different Countries.—Of the exports, to different countries, those from Lyttelton were greatest in value, amounting to 1,712,874*l.*, a decrease on the exports from Lyttelton in 1877 of 153,544*l.*; the exports from Dunedin amounted to 1,619,954*l.*, being a decrease on the exports in 1877 of 15,816*l.*; the exports from Wellington amounted to 783,047*l.*, a decrease on the exports from Wellington in 1877 of 250,705*l.*; the exports from Auckland amounted in 1878 to 544,112*l.*, a decrease on the exports in the previous year of 190,224*l.*; the exports from Napier increased from 344,998*l.* in 1877 to 385,004*l.* in 1878, and those from Invercargill and the Bluff from 332,201*l.* in 1877 to 391,970*l.* in 1878; the exports from Greymouth and Hokitika increased in the aggregate from 237,412*l.* in 1877 to 329,450*l.* in 1878, an increase of 92,038*l.* Of the total exports, those to the United Kingdom amounted to 4,727,242*l.*; those to Victoria to 750,390*l.*, including gold to the value of 562,229*l.*; the exports to New South Wales amounted to 239,190*l.*, of which the gold amounted to 71,076*l.*; the exports to South Australia amounted to 51,723*l.*, an increase on the exports in 1877 of 14,930*l.*; the exports to the United States amounted to 43,943*l.*, and those to China to 21,434*l.*, the gold export to China having amounted to 17,503*l.*; the exports to the islands in the Pacific amounted to 76,519*l.*, of which the exports to the Fijis amounted to 13,511*l.*

Principal Articles Exported.—Of the principal articles the pastoral interests yielded exports to the value of 3,548,923*l.* against 3,885,631*l.* in 1877; the mining interests yielded 1,255,084*l.* against 1,485,939*l.* in 1877; the agricultural interest yielded exports to the value of 610,958*l.*, an increase on the similar exports in 1877 of 286,447*l.*; the dairy and preserved meat exports amounted to 113,365*l.*, against 109,210*l.* in 1877.

Letters Received.—The number of letters received in the various postal districts in the Colony during 1878 were—From places without the Colony, 795,083, against 743,541 in 1877; and from places within the Colony, 7,440,979, against 6,376,224 in 1877; making a general total of 8,236,062, against 7,119,765 in 1877, being an increase of 1,116,297, or 15·68 per cent.

Letters Despatched. — The numbers of letters despatched were—To places without the Colony, 744,991, against 714,305 in 1877; and to places within the Colony, 6,543,708, against 5,220,800 in 1877; making a general total of 7,288,699, against 5,935,105 in 1877, an increase of 1,353,594, or at the rate of 22·97 per cent.

Newspapers Received.—The numbers of newspapers received were: — From places without the Colony, 1,755,680, against 1,530,294 in 1877; and from places within the Colony, 3,342,227,

NEW ZEALAND.

against 3,275,491 in 1877; making a general total of 5,097,907, an increase of 1,292,122 on the total in 1877.

Newspapers Despatched.—The numbers of newspapers despatched were:—To places without the Colony, 532,785, against 482,629 in 1877; to places within the Colony, 3,779,674, against 2,777,897, in 1877; making a general total of 4,312,459, an increase on 1877 of 1,051,933.

Postal Revenue.—The total amount of postal revenue in 1878 was 158,998*l.* 9*s.* This amount includes the sums that would have been chargeable on the franked correspondence if such had been paid for. The actual cash postal revenue for the year was 103,595*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, against a similar cash revenue of 95,606*l.* 19*s.* in 1877.

PART IV.—FINANCE, ACCUMULATION, AND PRODUCTION.

Revenue.—The customs revenue in 1878 amounted to 1,344,688*l.*, against 1,224,906*l.*, being an increase of 119,782*l.*, or 8·90 per cent. The following figures show the comparative amounts realised by this branch of the revenue during the 10 years 1869 to 1878 inclusive:—

	£		£	
1869	823,511	being an increase of	34,682 or	4·39 per cent.
1870	765,930	being a decrease of	57,581 or	6·99 „
1871	731,883	„ „	34,047 or	4·44 „
1872	813,279	being an increase of	81,396 or	11·12 „
1873	965,800	„ „	152,521 or	18·75 „
1874	1,188,948	„ „	223,148 or	23·10 „
1875	1,234,967	„ „	46,019 or	3·87 „
1876	1,206,791	being a decrease of	28,176 or	2·28 „
1877	1,224,906	being an increase of	18,115 or	1·50 „
1878	1,344,688	„ „	119,782 or	8·90 „

The ordinary revenue in 1878 amounted to 2,658,708*l.*, against 2,340,841*l.* in 1877, being an increase of 317,867*l.* The territorial revenue in 1878 amounted to 1,509,181*l.*, against a similar revenue of 1,575,182*l.* in 1877. The total ordinary and territorial revenue in 1877 amounted to 4,167,889*l.*

Expenditure. — The ordinary expenditure amounted to 3,585,675*l.*; the territorial expenditure to 779,600*l.*; or a total of general expenditure ordinary and territorial of 4,365,275*l.*, being 197,386*l.* in excess of the ordinary and territorial revenue for the year.

In addition to the above general or ordinary expenditure there was a special expenditure of 1,287,869*l.* out of loans. Of this amount the expenditure on immigration amounted to 102,190*l.*; the expenditure on railways and roads, 745,796*l.*; and on public buildings 145,029*l.*; in respect of land purchases from the Natives to 63,539*l.*, and other expenditure 331,514*l.*

Debt of the Colony.—The total public debt of the Colony, consisting of debentures and Treasury bills in circulation on the

31st December 1878, and advances outstanding on debentures and Treasury bills, amounted to 22,608,311*l.*; but, as the accrued sinking fund amounted to 1,678,127*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, the net indebtedness was reduced to 20,930,183*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* The total annual charge in respect of the debt, including the interest on advances, was 1,201,384*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* Of this 116,176*l.* was for payment to the sinking fund.

Customs Tariff.—A table showing the customs duties leviable in the Colony has been added to this volume for the first time, as it is a convenience to persons interested in the Colony, especially those not resident therein, to have this information bound up with the other statistical tables.

Accumulation.

Banks.—The total average liabilities of the banks within the Colony during 1877 amounted to 10,031,009*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*; the total average assets to 15,393,630*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* The total capital paid up on the 31st December 1878 amounted to 5,130,609*l.* 5*s.*; the total amount of last dividend paid to 348,875*l.* 6*s.*; and the total of reserved funds at the time of declaring such dividends to 2,228,800*l.* 12*s.*

Post Office Savings Banks.—There were 147 Post Office Savings Banks open at the close of 1878, an increase of 9 during the year; 13,005 accounts were opened during the year, and 9,634 accounts closed; 32,132 accounts remaining open at the end of the year. The deposits during the year amounted to 762,084*l.* 12*s.*; the withdrawals to 742,053*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, being less than the deposits by 20,030*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* The average amount of deposits to the credit of each account at the close of the year was 25*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*; the total amount standing to the credit of all deposits being 819,071*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

Other Savings Banks.—In savings banks other than the Post Office Savings Banks the deposits in 1878 by Europeans amounted to 153,943*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*; by Maoris to 56*l.* The total amount to credit of depositors in these banks on the 31st December 1878 was 224,133*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, of which the deposits by Maoris amounted to only 256*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* The total accumulated deposits in both classes of savings banks amounted to 1,043,204*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, an increase on the accumulated deposits in 1877 of 78,774*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*

Money Orders.—The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1878 was 101,017 against 90,672 in 1877, being an increase of 10,345. The total amount of these orders was 368,254*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* against 334,973*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* in 1877, an increase of 33,281*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*

Mortgages and Releases.—The total number of mortgages on land registered in 1878 was 9,255, representing the amount of 7,872,821*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*; the releases were 4,734, representing the amount of 2,720,297*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*; the excess of mortgages over releases amounting to 5,152,524*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* Of the mortgages effected, 4,771, representing the amount of 4,040,407*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*,

NEW ZEALAND. were effected under the Land Transfer Act, and 4,484, representing 3,832,414*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, were registered under the old system.

Production

Crown Lands Alienated.—The total area of Crown lands sold during the year amounted to 692,554 acres 2 roods 12 perches. The cash received amounted to 1,282,361*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* In addition, scrip representing the amount of 24,905*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* was received in payment for lands purchased. Of the above amounts 49,887 acres 1 rood 35 perches that had been conditionally sold on deferred payments were alienated by Crown grants on the fulfilment of the conditions. 29,368*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* of the cash received was in respect of such land. The alienations without sale amounted to 1,020 acres 37 perches to immigrants; 23,310 acres 1 rood 36 perches reserved for public purposes; 261 acres 1 rood as native reserves; 28,661 acres 1 rood 10 perches, Crown grants to natives of their own land, on evidence of ownership, in terms of the Native Land Acts; and 1,608 acres 20 perches in satisfaction of land scrip (other than money scrip). The total area alienated with and without sale amounted to 747,416 acres 5 perches. The total number of acres of Crown land held for depasturing purposes in 1878 amounted to 13,109,955 acres, the rents and assessments of which amounted to 106,886*l.*

Agricultural Statistics.—The information herein given is only in respect of holdings of cultivated land of upwards of one acre in extent, exclusive of holdings of aboriginal natives and of gardens attached to residences. The returns of the collections made in February and March 1879, give a total of 21,048 of such holdings, against 20,519 in the previous year, an increase of 529. Of the holdings in 1879, 13,762 were entirely freehold, 4,938 entirely rented, and 2,348 partly freehold and partly rented.

The extent of land under grain crop amounted to 571,558 acres, against 456,463 in 1878, an increase on the previous year of 115,095 acres, or at the rate of 25·21 per cent. The increase in Canterbury amounted to 71,514 acres, and in Otago to 28,051 acres.

The number of acres under green crops, potatoes, and other crops in February 1879 amounted to 247,887 acres, against 185,370 in 1878.

There were 2,897,902 acres in artificial grasses. Of these, 1,251,141 acres had been broken up previously to having been sown, and 1,646,761 had been surface-sown without having been broken up. This last number can, however, only be looked upon as an approximation; it is doubtful whether much of the land returned as in artificial grasses might not with equal correctness have been omitted on account of the small quantity of grass compared with the quantity of natural herbage and scrub.

The total extent of land under all kinds of crops, including sown grasses and of land broken up but not under crop in 1879, amounted to 3,982,866 acres, against 3,523,277 in 1878.

The extent of land under wheat in February 1879 was 264,861 acres, against 243,407 in February 1878, an increase of 21,454. In Canterbury the increase amounted to 26,640. In Otago there was a decrease of land under wheat to the extent of 9,687 acres. The estimated aggregate produce of the wheat crop in 1879 was 6,076,604 bushels, or an average of 23 bushels to the acre, against an average of 26½ in the previous year. This reduction was evidently due to the exceptionally dry spring and summer, which materially damaged, and even in some cases altogether destroyed, the crop on light lands. The decrease from this cause in Canterbury, which materially affects the average for the Colony, was from an estimated produce of 32¼ bushels per acre in 1878 to 21 bushels in 1879.

The extent of land under oats amounted to 278,031 acres, with an estimated produce of 8,368,586 bushels, or an average of 30 bushels to the acre—an increase in the year of 87,694 in the number of acres, and 2,438,624 in the estimated amount of produce in bushels.

The land in barley increased from 22,713 acres in 1878 to 28,666 acres in 1879; the estimated produce from 576,823 bushels in 1878 to 709,775 bushels in 1879. The average per acre having been 25½ bushels in 1878 and 25 bushels in 1879.

There was little difference in the area under potatoes—17,564 acres in 1878, 17,315 in 1879. The estimated produce decreased from 94,478 tons in 1878 to 86,220 tons in 1879.

PART V.—LAW, CRIME, AND EDUCATION.

Civil Cases.—There were 1,211 writs of summons tested in the supreme court during the year 1878; 50 of the cases were tried before juries. The total amount for which judgments were recorded was 50,761*l.* 6*s.* 8½*d.* The total number of civil cases disposed of in the various district courts amounted to 343; of these, 38 were tried before juries and 209 were tried before the judges only. The aggregate amounts sued for during the year were 35,391*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*; judgments were recorded for 10,826*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*; 26,318 civil cases were dealt with in the various resident magistrates' courts; the amount sued for were in the aggregate 296,310*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.*, and the amounts for which judgments were given were in the aggregate 105,031*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

Bankruptcy.—During the year 1878, 649 declarations of insolvency were filed in the supreme court, and 16 adjudications of bankruptcy were made on petitions by creditors, 360 declarations of insolvency were filed in the various district courts, and 15 adjudications of bankruptcy were made therein on creditors' petitions; the total number of cases of bankruptcy thus amounting to 1,040. The aggregate assets, as shown by the lists and statements filed, amounted to 406,938*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, and the aggregate liabilities to 922,277*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.*; the liabilities having been in excess of the estimated assets by 515,338*l.* 4*s.* 11½*d.*

Criminal Cases.—21,880 charges for various offences were brought against persons, not being Maoris, before the magistrates'

NEW ZEALAND.

courts in 1878. The summary convictions, consequent on these charges, amounted to 16,119. 397 persons, other than Maoris, were committed for trial at the superior courts. These numbers are but slightly in excess of those for 1877; in that year, the summary convictions numbered 16,103, and the commitments for trial 394.

402 persons, other than Maoris, were tried in the supreme and district courts on 470 indictments. The number of persons convicted and sentenced amounted to 229, and 10 persons were convicted but not sentenced. The number of indictments upon which convictions were made was 292.

Of the 430 indictments tried in the supreme court, 85 (76 against males and 9 against females) were for offences against the person—40 convictions being obtained (1 female), and 217 (193 against males and 24 against females) were for offences against property—convictions being obtained in respect of 126 indictments against males and 17 against females. The total persons convicted in the supreme court amounted to 206.

In the various district courts the total number of criminal cases tried amounted to 50, of which 18 (14 males and 4 females) were for offences against the person; 23 cases (22 males and 1 female) were for offences against property; and 9 cases for other offences. The total convictions amounted to 33.

The summary convictions in the resident magistrate's courts numbered 16,370, viz., 14,763 of males, and 1,607 of females, a decrease of 134 in the convictions of males in 1877, and an increase of 211 in the convictions of females. 913 males and 65 females were convicted for offences against the person, and 757 males and 108 females for offences against property. 5,353 males and 714 females were convicted for drunkenness.

In the above summary of convictions are included 251 convictions of Maories, of whom 37 were convicted for offences against the person, and 48 for offences against property, 122 were convicted for drunkenness.

Sentences of Criminals.—94 persons were sentenced in the superior courts to terms of imprisonment under 1 year. Of these, 80 were males and 14 females. 59 males and 4 females were sentenced for terms of 1 to 2 years, 28 males and 1 female for terms of 2 to 3 years, of these 1 was under 15 years of age, 20 males and 3 females for terms of 3 to 5 years, 7 males for terms of 5 to 7 years, 4 males for periods of from 7 to 10 years, 6 males for periods from 10 to 15 years, and 2 males to death.

Gaols.—The number of prisoners in confinement in the various gaols during the year 1878 (not including those imprisoned on account of debt or lunacy) amounted to 5,215; of these, 4,530 were received during the year, the balance (685) comprising prisoners in gaol at the commencement of the year. Of the above number of 4,530 prisoners received during the year, 139 were Maoris. Exclusive of the Maori prisoners, and those in confinement for debt or lunacy, the number of prisoners in confinement amounted to 1·03 per cent. of the mean population, against 1·28

per cent. in 1877, and 1·39 in 1876. 26 children under 10 years of age were recived in gaol during the year, 6 charged with felony, 3 with misdemeanor, and 17 with minor offences. The number of children under 10 years in gaol, in 1877, amounted to 17; 61 prisoners were between 10 and 15 years of age, a reduction of 18 on the number in gaol in 1877 at those ages. Of the 61 mentioned, 23 were charged with felony. The number of prisoners at between the ages of 15 and 20 amounted to 238, of whom 70 were charged with felony.

Of the prisoners 1,077 males and 564 females had been convicted before. As there is an approximation between the number of prisoners in gaol who had been sentenced once, twice, or oftener in the last two years, the numbers in each year are given herewith.

Number of prisoners convicted before :—

	Once.		Twice.		Three or more Times.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1877 -	434	51	223	45	499	425
1878 -	426	58	201	52	450	454

Education of Prisoners.—Of the prisoners received during the year, 481 males and 202 females were unable to read ; 239 males and 103 females were able to read only; 3,194 males and 643 females were able to read and write; and 60 males and 2 females had received a superior education.

Religion of Prisoners.—The total number of prisoners received during the year (exclusive of those received for debt or lunacy) amounted to 4,535. Of these, 4,318 belong to four denominations. These denominations, with the number of prisoners belonging to each, the proportion of each number to the total number of prisoners, and the proportions of persons of that denomination to the whole population at the census of 1878, are given herewith :—

Denomination of Prisoners.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per 100 of Total Prisoners.	Proportion of Persons of Denomination per 100 of Total Population.
Church of England - -	1,869	41·21	42·55
Roman Catholics - -	1,585	34·95	14·21
Presbyterians - - -	649	14·31	22·95
Wesleyans - - -	115	2·53	9·14

Inquests on Deaths.—588 inquests were held on deaths during the year, 487 on the bodies of males and 101 on the bodies of females. In 319 cases the deaths were attributed to accident, of which 125 were by drowning; in 202 cases to diseases and natural causes; in 3 cases the deaths were homicidal, in 9 cases directly

attributable to excessive drinking; in 32 cases the deaths were attributed to suicide; and in 23 cases to other and various causes.

Inquests on Fire.—The number of inquests on fire was 78, against 79 in 1877. In 11 cases verdicts of incendiarism were returned.

Public Schools.—The number of primary schools in 1878 supported entirely by the Government was 748, having a total of 1,691 teachers, and with the names of 65,366 children on the rolls during the last quarter of the year; the average number in attendance during the last quarter having been 50,639.

Ages of Pupils.—Of the above 65,366 children, 1,776 were under 5 years of age, and 1,019 over 15 years; the number at the so-called school ages of 5–15 having been 62,571.

Secondary or Superior Aided Schools.—There are nine schools of this class, six for boys and three for girls, that either received aid from the Government in 1878, or possessed endowments granted either by the Government or out of public estate. The number of instructors amounted to 37 males and 17 females. The total number of students on the roll for the last term of the year amounted to 784 males and 375 females. Of 868 students whose ages were given, 210 males and 57 females were over 15 years of age.

Public Schools, Income and Expenditure.—"The Education Act, 1877," required that all children between the ages of 7 and 13, resident within two miles from a public school, should attend a public school. As the Act further provided that no fees should be charged at any of those public schools that may be defined as primary schools, the maintenance of these schools became of necessity a charge upon the revenue. The total income in 1878 of the various education boards amounted to 337,436*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, of which the grants from the public revenue amounted to 317,923*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* The receipts on account of education reserves amounted to 8,862*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, and the receipts from other sources to 10,650*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* The total expenditure by the boards amounted to 302,614*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*; of this amount the expenditure on school buildings was 90,491*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

Private Schools.—The number of private schools in the Colony in December 1878, from which returns have been received amounted to 236, an apparent decrease of 16 on the number in 1877; but in 1877 the Collegiate School, Wanganui, the Nelson College, and the Christ's College Grammar School were included in the list of private schools, but are now included in the list of secondary endowed schools. Of the above 236 private schools, 29 were for boys only, 52 for girls only, and 155 were mixed schools. The number of teachers at those schools was 526, of whom 122 were males and 404 females. The pupils numbered 9,206, viz., 4,033 males and 5,173 females. The daily average attendance amounted to 8,138.

Native Schools.—The number of schools established for the education of the Maori race amounted during 1878 to 61, attended by 817 male pupils and 565 female pupils. 36 European schools

received subsidies from the Government for the support of Maori pupils ; 222 male Maoris and 171 female Maoris attended these schools. The total number of Maori children educated at the expense of the Government amounted in 1878 to 1,775 ; of these, 1,039 having been males and 736 females. There was thus in 1878 a very considerable decrease on the number of Maori children who were attending these schools in 1877, the decrease having been 280 in the number of males and 180 in the number of females.

PART VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Miscellaneous.—Although the Colony has been divided into 63 counties, the administrative portion of the Counties Act, 1876, was only in operation in 45 counties.

Revenue.—The total revenue of these 45 counties for the year ended the 31st March 1879 amounted to 507,896*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, of which 384,861*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* consisted of grants from the public revenue. The receipts from rates amounted to 34,154*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, and those from other sources to 88,879*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

Expenditure.—The total expenditure by these 45 counties amounted to 447,516*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, of which the sum of 369,395*l.* 1*s.* 11*d* was expended on public works, 20,192*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* on salaries, and 57,929*l.* 11*s.* on other expenses.

Municipal Boroughs.

Numbers and Population.—There were 62 boroughs in March 1879, containing an estimated aggregate population of 179,775. The estimated net annual value of rateable property in terms of the Rating Act, 1876 (which provides for a reduction from the renting value of 20 per cent. on houses and buildings, and 10 per cent. on land), amounted to 1,677,165*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* The approximate annual value may be assumed at about 1,973,135*l.*, the rating value being assumed to be on an average 15 per cent. less than the renting value. This amount capitalised at 10 per cent. would represent a total value of 19,731,350*l.*

Revenue.—The total aggregate revenue of these boroughs amounted to 344,230*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, of which the receipts from Government amounted to 47,163*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, and the receipts from rates to 118,258*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

Expenditure.—The total aggregate expenditure amounted to 666,764*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, of which the sum of 504,092*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* was expended on public works, 39,771*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* on salaries, and 122,900*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* on other expenditure.

Road Districts.

Revenue.—The aggregate value of the various road districts in the Colony amounted to 498,941*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, of which the grants from the Government amounted to 352,513*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, and the receipts from rates to 78,882*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

Expenditure.—The total expenditure of these districts amounted to 499,887*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, of which the expenditure on public work amounted to 449,381*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure on salaries to 21,949*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

NEW ZEALAND.

Annual Value of Rateable Properties.—The estimated net annual value of the rateable properties in the road districts, so far as returns have been received, amounts to 2,455,577*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* If allowance be made for a reduction of 10 per cent. in terms of the Rating Act, 1876, the actual annual value may be taken at 2,728,396*l.* As the estimated annual value of properties within the boroughs amounts to 1,677,165*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, the total annual value for the Colony, after making the deduction from the renting values provided by the Rating Act, 1876, amounts in the aggregate to 4,132,722*l.* 19*s.*

River Boards.

There were 10 River Protective Boards in 1878. The returns of nine of these exhibit a revenue of 10,957*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, of which 3,692*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* accrued from rates levied; the expenditure amounted to 16,700*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, of which the sum of 14,237*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* was expended on public works.

Constabulary, Volunteers, Fire Brigades.

Armed Constabulary.—The total strength of the armed constabulary on the 31st December 1878 amounted to 838 men of all ranks, distributed over 213 posts. Of these, 23 commissioned officers, 98 non-commissioned officers, and 365 rank and file were engaged in police duties; and 15 commissioned officers, 42 non-commissioned officers, and 295 rank and file constituted the reserve force.

Volunteers.—The various branches of the volunteer force gave a total strength of 8,144 officers and men belonging to 126 corps, an increase on the number in 1877 of 1,071 volunteers and three corps. The totals of each branch of the force were as follow:—

——	Corps.	Strength.
Cavalry - - -	11	691
Artillery - -	10	751
Engineer - -	5	406
Rifles - - -	53	3,476
Naval - - -	5	523
Cadets - - -	42	2,297

Fire Brigades.—In 1878 there were 33 fire brigades in the Colony, having a total strength of 135 officers and 736 men.

Representation.

Electors.—The number of persons on the electoral rolls of the Colony for the year ending the 31st August 1879 was 75,927. Of these, the number of persons of the aboriginal native race (Maoris) who were registered as electors amounted to 2,122.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. R. E. BROWN,
Registrar-General.

Statistical Summary of the Colony of New Zealand from 1869 to 1878 inclusive.

Year.	Population (exclusive of Maoris).*			Able to Read and Write.†	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration (excess over Emigration).	Inhabited Houses.†	Crown Lands.‡			Land (including Sown Grasses) under Cultivation.	Live Stock.†			
	Males.	Females.	Totals.							Waste Lands sold in each Year.	Cash realised.	Free Grants.‡		Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
										Acres.	£	Acres.	Acres.				
1869	140,112	97,137	237,249	—	9,718	2,721	1,931	3,641	—	112,211	115,941	145,449	783,435	—	—	—	—
1870	145,732	102,668	248,400	—	10,277	2,703	1,851	3,577	—	76,766	88,419	37,256	997,477	—	—	—	—
1871	156,431	110,555	266,986	173,459	10,592	2,642	1,864	4,786	57,182	92,642	110,973	123,796	1,140,279	81,028	436,592	9,700,629	151,460
1872	162,404	117,156	279,560	—	10,795	3,194	1,873	4,973	—	338,576	389,107	183,673	1,226,222	—	—	—	—
1873	170,406	125,540	295,946	—	11,222	3,645	2,276	8,811	—	786,250	980,758	484,541	1,416,933	—	—	—	—
1874	194,349	147,511	860	199,294	12,844	4,161	2,828	38,106	61,356	648,800	860,471	238,581	1,651,712	99,261	494,113	11,674,863	123,741
1875	213,294	162,562	75,856	—	14,438	5,712	3,209	25,270	—	318,682	448,697	486,335	1,943,653	—	—	—	—
1876	225,580	173,495	399,075	—	16,168	4,904	3,196	11,955	—	497,416	846,831	31,145	2,377,402	—	—	—	—
1877	234,803	182,819	417,622	—	16,856	4,685	3,114	6,376	—	777,862	1,314,480	40,314	2,940,711	—	—	—	—
1878	240,627	191,892	432,519	282,975	17,770	4,645	3,377	10,502	79,657	692,554	1,307,267	54,861	3,523,277	137,768	578,430	13,069,338	207,337

According to returns obtained at the year 1878 the Maori population was 42,819. It has been discovered recently that an important sub-tribe had been omitted, the number of which may be about 1,500. † This information has been correctly ascertained only for the years in which a census of the Colony was taken. ‡ The waste or Crown lands sold in each year prior to 1856 cannot be accurately stated. The confiscated lands sold prior to 1877 amounted altogether to 1,371,470 acres, but the sales in each year cannot be given. Since 1877 no separate account has been kept of confiscated lands. The total gross quantity of land disposed of by Crown grants up to the end of 1878, including lands sold and lands disposed of without sale, was 15,241,639 statute acres; and the total consideration in cash and money scrip, 10,817,890*l*. The figures under the head "free grants" represent in each year the total quantity of free grants to immigrants, and naval and military settlers, grants for public purposes and native reserves, old land claims, and grants to natives under the provisions of the Native Lands Act, 1865.

Statistical Summary of the Colony of New Zealand from 1869 to 1878 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Postal.					Shipping.						Exports (the Produce of New Zealand).					
	Letters (Received and Despatched).	Newspapers (Received and Despatched).	Postal Revenue.	No. of Money Orders Issued.	Amount of Money Orders Issued.	Inwards.		Outwards.		Registered Vessels belonging to the Colony.		Gold.		Wool.		Flax (Phormium).	
						No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	No.	No.	£		£							Ozs.	£	lbs.	£	Tons.	£
1869	5,016,595	3,563,147	58,007	28,427	127,218	764	250,731	771	247,764	381	25,990	614,281	2,362,995	27,765,636	1,371,230	2,028	45,245
1870	5,645,879	3,889,662	55,780	31,864	140,454	756	273,151	766	265,407	384	26,743	544,880	2,157,585	37,039,763	1,703,944	5,471	132,578
1871	6,081,697	4,179,784	70,249	36,291	157,397	729	274,643	709	265,618	371	27,107	730,029	2,787,520	37,793,734	1,606,144	4,248	90,611
1872	6,958,543	4,411,091	94,733	44,660	191,009	775	300,302	743	285,366	364	23,963	445,370	1,730,992	41,886,997	2,537,919	3,985	99,405
1873	7,915,985	5,269,195	94,706	52,351	219,258	739	289,297	704	281,847	411	30,035	505,337	1,987,425	41,535,185	2,702,471	6,454	143,799
1874	9,058,456	6,306,692	104,371	62,712	263,164	856	399,296	822	385,533	471	38,935	376,388	1,505,331	46,848,735	2,834,695	2,038	37,690
1875	10,427,851	6,811,277	122,496	73,027	293,481	926	416,727	940	417,820	502	42,025	355,322	1,407,770	54,401,540	3,398,155	639	11,742
1876	11,770,737	7,962,748	129,263	80,255	310,268	878	393,180	866	393,334	538	44,401	318,367	1,268,559	59,853,454	3,395,816	897	18,285
1877	13,054,870	8,066,311	143,600	90,672	334,973	812	388,568	848	400,609	533	42,479	371,685	1,496,080	64,481,324	3,658,938	1,053	18,826
1878	15,524,761	9,410,366	158,998	101,017	368,255	926	456,490	886	428,493	541	46,965	310,486	1,240,079	59,270,256	3,292,807	622	10,666

Statistical Summary of the Colony of New Zealand from 1869 to 1878 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Exports (the Produce of New Zealand).				Imports.	Revenue.			Electric Telegraph.			Miles of Railway.		Savings Banks.*		Friendly Societies.†		Convictions in Superior Courts after Commitment.
	Gum (Kauri).		Wheat, Provisions, Tallow, Timber, &c.	Total Value.	Total Value.	Ordinary.	Territorial.	Total for Year.	Miles of Line.	Number of Messages.	Cash and Cash Values.	Open for Traffic.	Under Construction.	Number of Depositors.	Balance to Credit on 31st Dec.	Number of Lodges, &c.	Average No. of Members.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.															
	Tons.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£				£			
1869	2,850	111,307	199,357	4,090,134	4,976,126	1,025,516	382,070	1,407,586	1,611	173,746	32,649	—	—	10,103	320,383	—	—	277
1870	4,391	175,074	375,501	4,544,682	4,639,015	960,368	327,589	1,287,957	1,887	238,195	27,422	—	—	12,137	388,804	—	—	231
1871	5,054	167,958	518,871	5,171,104	4,078,193	921,672	377,699	1,299,371	2,015	369,085	37,203	—	—	14,275	454,966	—	—	180
1872	4,811	154,167	584,703	5,107,186	5,142,951	1,005,942	618,772	1,624,714	2,312	491,205	44,669	—	—	17,289	597,002	—	—	190
1873	2,833	85,816	558,459	5,477,970	6,464,687	1,487,393	1,265,788	2,753,181	2,389	637,941	55,195	145	434	21,807	812,144	—	—	189
1874	2,568	79,986	694,441	5,152,143	8,121,812	1,873,448	1,150,900	3,024,348	2,632	844,301	62,322	209	621	27,215	943,753	—	—	194
1875	3,230	138,523	519,654	5,475,844	8,029,172	2,047,234	688,722	2,735,956	3,156	993,323	74,420	542	464	30,310	897,326	—	—	257
1876	2,888	109,234	697,007	5,488,901	6,905,171	2,391,344	1,149,622	3,540,966	3,170	1,100,599	80,841	718	427	32,577	905,146	—	—	249
1877	3,632	118,348	786,292	6,078,484	6,973,418	2,340,841	1,575'182	3,916,023	3,307	1,182,955	85,589	1,052	251	35,709	964,430	89	8,560	250
1878	3,445	132,975	1,103,981	5,780,508	8,755,663	2,658,708	1,509,181	4,167,889	3,434	1,260,324	92,433	1,089	142	39,926	1,043,204	88	8,828	292

* Post Office Savings Banks were first opened in 1867. † These figures do not give all the Friendly Societies in the Colony, but only such as furnished returns in each year.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 4.

Governor SIR A. MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, King's House, August 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you my report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Jamaica for the year 1877–78.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the JAMAICA BLUE BOOK for the Year 1878.

Legislation.

During the year 1878 15 laws were passed by the Legislature, the more important of which are the following:—

Law 1 of 1878. "A Law to raise by Loan a Sum not exceeding "35,000*l.* for Immigration purposes."

At the time of the preparation of the annual estimates for the financial year under review, before the recent settlement of the incidence of cost of this service, the current expenses on immigration accounts for charges of debt, hospitals, salaries, &c. were 42,847*l.*, and the revenues were placed at about 30,404*l.* There was thus an anticipated deficit of 12,443*l.* to be added to a deficit of 4,367*l.* on the fund for the previous year, making 16,810*l.* to be provided, besides 14,000*l.* for two shiploads of immigrants ordered by the late Lieutenant-Governor in anticipation of any provision for discharging the cost, and then on their way to Jamaica. Unfortunately, no assistance, even of a temporary character, could be afforded in this emergency from the general revenue, which fell short of the estimates for the year previously (1876–77) by 33,000*l.*, and caused a deficit for which recourse to some small additional taxation was necessary in 1877–78.

Under these untoward circumstances there was no alternative but to raise the amount required by loan, and this has been done with the sanction of the Secretary of State, thus adding to the debt assumed by the public on account of immigration the portion required to meet the deficit in 1876–77, and the debt charges as well as the hospital and other medical expenses for 1877–78.

Law 3 of 1878. "A Law relating to lands adjudged to the "Crown under the District Courts Laws."

By section 184 of the District Courts Law (22 of 1874), provision was made for enabling the Crown to eject persons found in possession of land without any title thereto, and there was a proviso that if the person legally or equitably entitled to the premises should within certain periods mentioned, in the case of a minor, at his option, three years after attaining his majority, and in the case of a lunatic three years after becoming sane, establish his claim to the same, the Crown, upon requirement to do so, should give possession.

That part of the proviso which relates to infants and lunatics made it impossible in some cases for the Government to make profitable use of the lands obtained under the section, inasmuch as the right reserved to infants and lunatics to come in at any time after the ejectment, and within three years of the removal of their disabilities, and prove their title, precluded the Government from selling the land.

This Law enacts that the Government may sell at the end of seven years, and makes provision for compensating the lunatic or infant who may afterwards prove that he was the person entitled to the land sold.

This Law also vests the lands obtained under the section above mentioned in the Colonial Secretary upon public trusts, and so removes doubts which were entertained as to the status of the Government in relation to such lands.

Law 4 of 1878. "The Probate Duty Law."

Under the former Law the regulations for the valuation of property for the purposes of probate duty, and for securing the payment of duty, were contained mainly under the heading "Court of Ordinary" in the schedule to the Stamp Law, 33 of 1868.

The defect in the working of the Law under those provisions was—

1. That the valuation returned by executors was habitually based upon an under estimate, there being no provision of law under which any return of duty could be made in case it should turn out that the estimate had been placed too high.

There being no sufficient penalty upon executors for an intentional under-valuation, the revenue was frequently defrauded.

To meet these evils the present Law makes provisions analagous to those contained in sections 37–43 of the Imperial Act 55 Geo. 3. c. 184.

To punish executors for wilful under-valuation.

2. To provide for a return of excess of duty when the estimate was too high in the first instance, and for compelling the payment of deficient duty and penalty where it was too low.

The provisions are adopted to fit in with the existing procedure relating to the probate of wills. Further, some scattered provisions of the old Law prohibiting administration without probate are re-enacted in terms more stringent than those formerly in force.

JAMAICA.

Law 5 of 1878. "The West India and Panama Telegraph "Company, Limited, Transfer Law, 1878."

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, mentioned in the Law 33 of 1870, having gone into liquidation in England, and its property, plant, rights, and privileges having been acquired by another company of the same name, incorporated January 9th, 1877, this Law is to transfer to the new company the powers, authorities, and privileges in this Island formerly exercised by the old company, and to impose upon the new company the like obligations, restrictions, and liabilities to which the old company was liable.

This Law was passed under the usual formalities in respect of private Bills.

Law 6 of 1878. "A Law to re-impose the Poll Tax on certain "horse-kind Asses and Cattle" on farms, which was removed by Law 14 of 1870.

Owing to the deficiency in collections on the estimates for 1876–77, and the probable insufficiency of the then existing sources of revenue to meet the general expenditure, as stated in the estimates placed before the Legislative Council, the necessity arose for the re-imposition of this tax, which, having been originally imposed in 1857 and increased in 1861, was abolished in a period of financial prosperity in 1870. The average revenue from it for the two last years when the tax was in force, before the operation of Law 14 of 1870, was 5,500*l.*, and this amount, after deducting 500*l.* on account of the relief made in the law of yearlings from payment of the tax, was estimated as sufficient to cover the anticipated deficiency, and to leave a narrow surplus of about 2,300*l.* towards other requirements. The Law does not re-impose the duty on plantation cattle, and the 2*d.* a head on sheep formerly collected; it merely imposes the first duty on horned stock not used on main or parochial roads, and will therefore only apply to breeding pens.

Objection has been made to this tax, and the authority of my predecessor, Sir J. P. Grant, has been quoted against it. I have explained to you in other despatches the grounds upon which I take a different view of the subject from that expressed by him. I do not regard the annual product of valuable and accumulated property in live stock as being at all the same thing as agricultural produce from land, which cannot be obtained without much outlay of capital for labour.

Law 7 of 1878. "The Immigration Amendment Law, 1878."

This Law altered the previously existing Immigration Laws so far as was necessary for the carrying out of the new arrangements at that time sanctioned by Lord Carnarvon with regard to immigration.

The provisions of this Law are mainly of temporary operation, and were directed to the regulation of the passage from the old

to the new state of things. It has since been superseded by he legislation of the last session in the Immigration Laws of 1879.

Law 9 of 1878. "A Law to amend the Procedure in Inferior "Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction."

The object of this Law is to remedy several defects that have been observed in the laws regulating the procedure of district and petty sessional courts, and to facilitate the issue of process and the furtherance of prosecutions.

Law 10 of 1878. "The Rum Duty Law."

This Law consolidates and amends the laws relating to the collection, calculation, and enforcement of the duty on rum, and makes improved provision for regulating the manufacture, warehousing, storage, removal, and exportation of rum. A new and more careful definition of offences against the Rum Laws has been included in the Law, and the provisions for the recovery and appropriation of penalties have been simplified. The excise duty remains fixed and leviable under a separate Law, 1 of 1866, and at the rate, low compared with other Colonies, of 5*s.* a gallon.

Law 11 of 1878. "A Law to amend Law 29 of 1873 as to the "Parochial Road Fund Accounts."

The object of this Law is to place at the immediate disposal of the parochial authorities, for the general purposes of their roads, the remaining one-fifth of the money raised upon the license duties on wheels and animals under Law 30 of 1867, which has hitherto been retained, together with proceeds of the quitrent and land tax, as a reserve fund under the control of the Governor, to be expended in the erection of new bridges, in the laying out of new roads, and in extraordinary expenses in repairs.

The effect of this is to add 25 per cent. to the present limited, and it must be admitted, insufficient amounts for the repairs of parochial roads, and to limit the sources of the reserved fund to the quitrent and land tax, which yield about 12,000*l.* a year.

Law 12 of 1878. The "Newcastle Special Rural Headmen "Law" was enacted in consequence of a representation from the military authorities as to the prevalence and difficulty of detection of larceny among the labouring employees at that somewhat isolated cantonment. This Law authorises the appointment of a limited number of non-commissioned officers, recommended by the officer commanding the troops, to be rural headmen under Law 28 of 1869, which otherwise required for such a post the qualification of being a resident householder.

Law 13 of 1878. "A Law in aïd of Law 30 of 1870 and of "Law 22 of 1875 as to Church Property."

This Law was passed to remove certain difficulties which were supposed to exist in respect of the disposal of property vested in the Incorporated Lay Body of the Church of England in Jamaica.

JAMAICA.

The session of the Council in 1878 was not prolific in legislation. As I had very recently entered upon the administration of the Government I intentionally postponed any measures which were not plainly needed, or already partially prepared, until I should have had more opportunity for acquainting myself with the peculiar circumstances of the Colony.

Finance.

On account of general revenue and expenditure services in 1877–78, exclusive of appropriated revenue and expenditure, the receipts were 438,565*l.*, and the payments, including 9,787*l.* for redemption of debt, and 12,237*l.* invested in sinking funds on account of immigration loans, as well as others, and including the charges formerly borne by the so-called immigration fund, now transferred to the general exchequer, amounted to 440,615*l.*, which would have left a deficit of 2,050*l.*, in addition to that with which the year commenced of 1,752*l.*, had not the debentures to the extent of 35,000*l.* been issued, under the authority which was given by Law 1 of 1878, in consequence of the assumption by the public of the immigration charges above mentioned. By this assistance a surplus of 31,198*l.* was created towards the ways and means of this current financial year. It will thus be also apparent, however, that but for the assumption by the general revenue of new burdens to the extent of 19,741*l.*, on account of immigration during the year, the ordinary sources of revenue would have been fully sufficient for public requirements.

The local revenues, which are appropriated to parochial roads, pauper relief, sanitary purposes, markets, and other similar services, and are administered by the respective municipal boards, produced in 1877–78, 74,900*l.*, more than 2,300*l.* in excess of either of the two previous years, and were applied to their several purposes to the extent of 64,499*l.*, the surplus being carried forward in due proportions to the credit of the different funds.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services constituting the new fund was 16,344*l.*, against expenses, being charges on the fund and amounting to 6,589*l.*, showing an apparent surplus of 9,755*l.*, which, however, must be reduced by the cost of the return vessel despatched in May 1878 and not brought to account before the close of the financial year, as well as by some adjustments consequent on the change of account.

The usual comparative table of the whole of the Treasury receipts in the financial year under report, with those of the previous year, follows :—

—	1877–78.	1876–77.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Import duties - - -	245,075	233,663	1,41 2	—
Light dues - - -	2,441	2,494	—	53
Harbour masters' fees - -	671	816	—	145
Rum duties - -	92,888	92,512	376	—
Licenses - - - -	18,020	18,371	—	351
Stamps - - - -	14,840	15,842	—	1,002
Postal revenues - - -	14,389	14,997	—	608
Court fees - - -	8,742	8,755	—	13
Fines and forfeitures - -	2,576	2,649	—	73
Interest on securities for sinking funds - - - -	3,957	3,170	787	—
Interest other than as above -	2,874	2,295	579	—
Reimbursements for expenditure -	19,357	20,318	—	961
Miscellaneous - - -	3,999	3,572	427	—
Forfeited Chancery deposits -	—	536	—	536
Export duties on coffee and dye-woods - - - -	5,431	—	—	—
Breeding stock - - -	3,305	—	—	—
	438,565	419,990	18,575	—
Revenue specially appropriated.				
Parochial road revenues - -	36,778	36,129	649	—
Kingston street tax - -	1,202	1,164	38	—
Parochial municipal revenues -	6,002	5,876	126	—
Poor rates - - - -	28,050	26,143	1,907	—
Sanitary rates - - -	2,091	2,236	—	145
Fire rates (Kingston) - -	777	1,016	—	239
	74,900	72,564	2,336	—
Immigration Revenues.				
Export duties on sugar and rum -	11,558	19,467	—	7,908
Capitation tax, &c. - -	4,785	13,793	—	9,008
	16,343	33,260	—	16,916
Receipts on Debt Account.				
Immigration loan - - -	35,000	9,200	25,800	—

The new sources of general revenue were, the export tax on coffee and dyewoods, which had been transferred from the immigration fund in the new fiscal arrangement, together with the liabilities it was originally intended and pledged to meet, and which yielded 5,431*l.*, and the tax on breeding stock, which had been re-imposed to cover a deficit in the estimates when prepared, and which brought in only 3,305*l.* The smaller receipts from the latter source than were anticipated is probably attributable to the tax first becoming payable on the 1st of August 1878, and then only in moieties, if exceeding a certain amount. The whole amount of this tax, therefore, did not fall within the financial year which ended on 30th September 1878. The remaining 9,839*l.* of

JAMAICA.

the increase of revenue in 1877–78 is on the previously existing objects of taxation. The fluctuation on the import duties is elsewhere commented on under the heading of trade. The decrease of postal receipts is only apparent, inasmuch as the inland postage was increased by 490*l.*, without any alteration in the rates, and the ocean, or extra-insular postages was less by 1,147*l.*, or 25 per centum owing to the operation of the reduction of postage on joining the Postal Union. The falling off in the receipts from stamps is attributable to a considerable decrease in probate duties, and in some measure to the present universal depression in trade.

The local revenues have maintained their advance, with the exception of the fire and sanitary funds of Kingston, the rates of which were reduced in the year under review from 5*d.* and 4*d.* respectively to 3*d.* on the rental in each case.

I should perhaps recapitulate the objects and sources of these local or appropriated revenues.

The parochial road fund of each parish is constituted, under Laws 29 of 1873 and 11 of 1878, of the license duties levied within the parish on horses, mules, asses, and wheels by Law 30 of 1867, as amended by Law 14 of 1870, and yielding in 1877–78 the aggregate sum of 24,190*l.* From a return presented during the year, at the instance of an unofficial member of Council, it appears that this sum is allotted for the maintenance and repairs of 3,475 miles of carriage roads of different classes, and of 1,816 miles of bridle roads. In addition to the foregoing, the two first-named laws created a reserved fund which in 1877–78, consisting only of the quitrent and of the land tax under Law 26 of 1868, yielded 12,588*l.*, and is applied by the Governor, on special applications from the different boards, for extraordinary repairs, such as damage by flood, or new bridges, and roads. Acknowledging the previous insufficiency of these revenues for the purpose, the remaining fifth of the tax on wheels and horses was, by Law 11 of 1878, diverted, as from the 1st October 1877, from this reserve fund to the accounts at the disposal of the several parochial road commissioners, and it is apprehended that still further means must be provided to bring these parochial roads into the same satisfactory condition as the main roads, for which more liberal provision is made from the general revenues.

A statement was prepared during the year which showed the following increase during the last ten years in the kind of property which contributes to this fund :—

	1868–69.	1876–77.
For general use, horsekind at 11*s.* - -	22,125	28,184
For hire, „ at 7*s.* - -	289	270
Asses at 3*s.* 6*d.* - - - -	5,458	8,065
For general use, wheels at 15*s.* - -	3,538	5,268
For hire, „ at 10*s.* - -	280	380
For carts, „ at 6*s.* - -	8,090	10,294
For hackney carriages, wheels at 20*s.* -	112	332

The Kingston Street Fund is a special one apart from and in addition to the ordinary parochial road revenue, and is applied, under the Act 28 Vict. c. 24., to redeem, with payment of interest, the loan raised for the reconstruction of the city streets in 1866. It is composed of a tax of 7*d.* in the pound on every house of the annual value of 12*l.* and upwards within the reconstructed area, of an addition equal to about one third of the ordinary parochial road taxes, and of a contribution of 200*l.* a year from the general revenue. Of the original loan of 14,500*l.*, the sum of 8,400*l.* has been already paid off, and when the debt which must be redeemed within 25 years is extinguished, this special fund and taxation will cease.

The parochial municipal revenue consists of the parochial surplus funds, market dues, and pound fees, which yielded in 1877–78, 3,578*l.*, 1,386*l.*, and 1,038*l.* respectively. The parochial surplus funds are the proceeds in each parish of the trade licenses, under Laws 18 of 1867 and 9 of 1873, and are expended, on the application of the municipal boards, for useful local purposes in and for the benefit of the parish in which the duties are collected. The fees for market dues are fixed, collected, and applied under the administration of the municipal boards, with general control of the Governor, and by the authority of powers conferred by Law 9 of 1874. The several pound revenues are in like manner dealt with under an Act of the former Constitution, 15 Vict. c. 11. The poor rates are the house tax, collected under Law 27 of 1869, and under a previous Law, 5 of 1868, applied by the municipal board of each parish to the support of the poor of the parish. They are levied on houses of the annual value of 6*l.* and upwards, at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, and on houses below the annual value in the following specific amounts:—

If owned with an acre of land, 6 shillings.

If owned with less than an acre and floored, 4 shillings.

If owned with less than an acre, without flooring, 2 shillings.

From a return prepared during the financial year under review it appears that out of a revenue of 26,143*l.* collected in the preceding year, 15,050*l.* (including some arrears) were from houses below the annual value of 6*l.*, which indicates that the tax is pretty largely collected from the class for whose benefit it is most required, and that the poor relief is not granted principally at the charge of the more wealthy taxpayer. A comparison of the number of houses paying this duty in the year in question with those in 1868–69, the first year of the full operation of this tax, and when the minimum rated value was 8*l.* instead of 6*l.*, shows as follows:—

	1868–69.	1876–77.
Rated at 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound - -	4,145	7,875
Fixed at 6*s.* „ - -	27,487	38,612
Fixed at 4*s.* „ - -	5,674	4,826
Fixed at 2*s.* „ - -	7,947	7,572

JAMAICA.

The increase in the numbers is perhaps attributable to an improved collection rather than to any such great addition to this description of property as the returns seem to show.

The sanitary rates are in like manner imposed and administered by the local authorities under the provisions of Law 14 of 1873, and with the object of defraying the costs of carrying out the sanitary arrangements of the local boards of health, which are the municipal boards of the several parishes. Being levied on the same property and on the same conditions as the poor rate, a sanitary rate has not been imposed where there are surplus poor funds at credit of the parish, from which a transfer for sanitary purposes is sanctioned.

Although the machinery has been provided by Law 17 of 1875 for the establishment of fire brigades in provincial towns, and for the levying of a special rate for the maintenance of the same, the city of Kingston, under its special Law 44 of 1872, is the sole contributor to this head of revenue, in a rate of 3*d.* in the pound on all houses rateable for the relief of the poor.

With the natural force of water from the reservoirs situate on an elevation just outside of the town, and with a fire brigade recently reorganised by the municipal authorities, Kingston may be said to enjoy as full a protection from fire as can well be provided.

The Immigration Fund, under the new fiscal arrangement which came into operation at the commencement of this financial year, consists now only of the export duties on sugar and rum and the double capitation tax on those coolies who had already been introduced, and to these contributions have been added, as a matter of equity, the hospital reimbursements by those employers who elected to continue payment of the single capitation tax. The export duties on coffee and dyewoods now form a part of the general revenue. The charges on this fund are the cost of the departmental expenses and of the return passages of those already in the Island, as well as such a sum as will reduce to 15*l.* the cost to the allottee of the immigrant's introduction and back passage. The bounty to those already introduced and electing to remain instead of repatriating themselves is now charged to the general revenue, after the absorption of the former colonisation and return passage fund, the transactions in which are retained under the account of immigration, with the view of avoiding the merging of this fund in the general exchequer.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements in 1876–77 and 1877–78 :—

	1877–78.	1876–77.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt	41,921	34,494	7,427	—
Pensions	10,633	11,939	—	1,306
Administrative departments	33,272	33,554	—	282
Revenue departments	32,282	32,910	—	628
Postal service	16,826	15,858	968	—
Judicial	37,178	35,576	1,602	—
Ecclesiastical	11,309	12,583	—	1,274
Medical	46,762	37,241	9,521	—
Constabulary	47,379	48,736	—	1,357
Penitentiary and prisons	26,104	27,297	—	1,193
Reformatories	5,242	4,876	366	—
Education	21,302	21,311	—	9
Harbour-master	663	660	3	—
Colonial allowances to troops	4,633	4,321	312	—
Pilotage and harbour boards	452	321	131	—
Miscellaneous	15,454	10,013	5,441	—
Steam communication with America	3,843	5,159	—	1,316
Stationery for public departments	2,627	3,395	—	768
Colonisation of immigrants	—	5,000	—	5,000
Public library and museum	522	571	—	49
Public plantations and gardens	4,489	4,215	274	—
Public works	51,060	71,953	—	20,893
Lighthouses	1,167	1,330	—	163
Parochial expenditure	2,409	2,586	—	177
Registration of births and deaths	1,062	—	1,062	—
	418,591	425,899	—	7,308
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.				
Parochial roads	28,024	31,831	—	3,807
Kingston streets	417	489	—	72
Parochial municipal objects	3,455	2,651	804	—
Relief of the poor	27,179	29,152	—	1,973
Sanitary rates	2,714	3,216	—	502
Fire rates	2,710	1,068	1,642	—
	64,499	68,407	—	3,908
Disbursements other than Expenditure.				
Sinking funds	14,098	11,291	2,807	—
Redemption of debt	15,924	7,200	8,724	—
Excess of withdrawals over deposits	558	—	558	—
Total Disbursements, exclusive of Charges on Immigration Fund Accounts.				
Immigration	6,589	41,900	—	35,311

Of the increases in general expenditure, that of debt is attributable to the charges of the immigration loans; that in judicial includes the cost for about half of the year of the late Island Secretary's office, now transferred as a Record Office under the control of the Chief Justice as keeper; that of medical was

JAMAICA.

entirely caused by the transfer of the Coolie Hospital charges which were a little over the excess here stated, and that in miscellaneous includes the local rates which are now fully paid on government buildings in the same manner as on private property, and the debit balance of the immigration exchequer on 30th September 1877.

Of the decreases, the principal one is that of 20,893 in the expenditure on public works, which in view of the financial strait at the end of 1877 had been limited as much as possible, and had been estimated at a sum total less by 14,450*l.* than the expenditure of the previous year. There was a further curtailment of expenditure under the estimate of 4,261*l.* in new roads and buildings, and of 3,890*l.* in repair and maintenance of existing works. The guarantee of the public chest on account of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Works nccessitated additional expenditure of 590*l.* The public revenue was not called on to continue the contribution of 5,000*l.* to the Colonisation and Return Passage Fund.

Of the local revenues the apparently-decreased expenditure is owing to the extensive repairs to parochial roads necessitated by heavy rains in 1876–77, when the several parochial revenues were supplemented by grants from the reserved fund to the extent of 11,542*l.*, against 5,284*l.* in the year under review. The decrease in the expenditure for poor relief is only apparent and comparatively with an excessive outlay in the previous year, and the increase in that from fire rates is caused by the special provision for the establishment of a fire brigade in the city of Kingston. There cannot be a fair comparison of the immigration expenditure now that the incidence of cost of this service has been changed.

Pensions.

During the year 12 pensions were granted in consequence of retirement from office, amounting in all to 1,758*l.*, and the pension list was relieved by deaths to the extent of 1,057*l.* The total amount of pensions paid in the year was 11,013*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, being 4,456*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* for 49 officers retired, under the principles of the Imperial pension regulations since 1866, 5,396*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* for compensation to those (43 in number) whose offices have been abolished within the same time; and the smaller sum of 1,161*l.* for pension granted by the late Legislature.

The apparent excess of additions to the pension list over the sum of pensions which have lapsed during the year is fairly subject to the deduction of the ecclesiastical stipend formerly paid to the Rev. Mr. Davidson, which has also lapsed on his retirement upon a pension.

Debt.

A loan of 35,000*l.*, chargeable to the general revenues, was raised during the year, under the provisions of Law 1 of 1878, to meet the debt and hospital charges for the financial year 1877–78

connected with immigration, which had, under the recent arrangement, been transferred to general revenue, and for which provision in the estimates had not been anticipated.

The immigration debentures at the close of the financial year preceding the one under review amounted to 152,538*l.*, in reduction of which securities invested to the extent of 8,424*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* were taken over from the immigration exchequer, leaving a net amount of increase to the debit of the general revenue exchequer of 144,113*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, in addition to the debit balance on 30th September 1877 of the former immigration fund, which was subsequently ascertained to be only 1,724*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* Of the loans for special services, secured primarily on special revenues, and guaranteed by general revenues, a further sum of 9,000*l.*, being the remainder of the 10,000*l.* authorised by Law 37 of 1872, was raised by the Kingston Slaughter-house Commissioners to meet the expenses in completing those works.

During the year 15,924*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* of debt were paid off, of which 1,200*l.* from general revenues was on account of the 50,000*l.* loan raised to provide for the expenses of the disturbances in 1865, leaving outstanding a small balance of 350*l.*; 12,724*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for debentures issued on account of immigration, which are now redeemed from general revenues, and against which securities to the amount of 4,214*l.* 3*s.* had been taken over; and 2,000*l.* out of special funds for the redemption of the loan in 1865 for the reconstruction of the Kingston streets.

A sum of 12,448*l.* from the general revenues of the year was also invested in securities bought for sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt, and included a provision for the same purpose on account of the recently assumed loans for immigration purposes.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenues stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last 13 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
1866	682,466	11	5	1873	554,492	18	11
1867	718,952	18	10	1874	539,108	8	2
1868	706,964	18	0	1875	548,024	3	7
1869	686,830	9	2	1876	501,413	8	5
1870	609,505	11	3	1877	485,107	11	5
1871	591,656	5	6	1878	641,644	10	9
1872	571,542	1	3				

The very large increase at the end of last year in the amount of debt is due to the transfer of all the past immigration debt and to the raising of a loan to meet certain of the immigration liabilities herein-before referred to. It should be explained that this annually-repeated comparative statement of debt has included deposits at interest under several Laws of some special funds, which deposits have increased by 1,371*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* in the year under review, as well as the loan for the reconstruction of the

JAMAICA.

Kingston streets, which loan is primarily secured on, and is being duly and gradually redeemed from, special revenues, and which probably appears in this statement on account of its being the only loan of this kind in the earlier years of the present form of annual report. Both these items should, perhaps, be more properly omitted from this part of the statement. In addition to the above tabular statement, there are the loans raised for the following special objects, and, though guaranteed by the general revenue, secured primarily on special revenues.

	£
Rio Cobre Canal - - - -	123,900
Kingston and Liguanea water works -	98,200
Kingston markets - - -	20,000
Kingston gas works - - - -	25,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

From this is excluded, as appearing before the debt of 6,100*l.* on account of the Kingston streets reconstruction. While in most of these undertakings still in an early stage the revenues have not yet allowed any provision for the redemption of debt, still the Colony has been called on to pay under its guarantee only in respect of the Rio Cobre irrigation works to the extent of 7,072*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* in 1877–78.

The interest and other charges of debt paid during the year 1877–78 amounted to 41,921*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, and consisted of 5,550*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* for perpetual annuities on several charities and schools under 28 Vict. c. 23.; 3,630*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* for interest on deposits on account of rectors, curates, Civil Service widows and orphans funds, and of a free school; 14,421*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* for interest and commission on Imperial guaranteed loans, including 38,000*l.* for immigration; 5,432*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* for interest on account of immigration loans; 9,663*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* for interest and commission on account of loans raised before the 1st December 1876; and 3,222*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* for interest on deposits in Government savings banks.

Under the head of debt may be mentioned the liability which, although it involves no payment during the next few years, has been taken over by the general revenue on account of the colonisation of immigrants allotted before the commencement of this year. The aggregate estimated amount payable was 67,916*l.*, but the bounties will be defrayed at first out of the former colonisation and return passage fund, which had 37,221*l.* at its credit, and then, after exhaustion of this source, will become an annual charge on the public.

Legislative Council.

There were fifteen meetings in a session opened on the 2nd of January and prorogued on the 15th of May 1878.

The Council lost by death the services of an official member in Mr. C. H. Jackson, the Island Secretary and Administrator-General, and of Mr. L. F. Mackinnon, the senior unofficial

member. The former was replaced at the Board by Mr. Mackglashan, the Auditor-General, and the latter by Dr. Hamilton, a proprietor of coffee plantations who was a member of Council, and had served on an executive committee in the former Constitution, and who had recently returned to residence within the Colony.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. Edward Newton, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of the Mauritius, having been appointed Colonial Secretary and Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica, in succession to the late Mr. Rushworth, who died on the 10th of August 1877, assumed his duties in this Colony on the 6th of September. Mr. C. H. Jackson, the Island Secretary and Administrator-General, a solicitor who had spent a long public life and had been Speaker of the House of Assembly, died in April, and, as a temporary arrangement, pending the long-desired reconstruction of the offices which he held, was succeeded by Mr. E. B. Lynch, a practising solicitor who had been pensioned a few years previously on the abolition of one of the district courts to which he was clerk. Captain Portlock Dadson, appointed by the Secretary of State to take charge of the Government reformatory, assumed his duties on the 13th of December 1877. Three of the district court judges vacated their offices during the year. Mr. Rampini retired on a pension after 12 years' service, and by reason of a permanent incapacity from infirmity to discharge his duties, and Mr. Fleming and Mr. Hancock were promoted respectively to be Attorneys-General of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands. Only one of these vacancies was filled up by the appointment of Mr. William Ernst, it being thought desirable, as part of other judicial re-arrangements, to reduce the number and enlarge the extent of districts of the district courts.

Lands.

Operations have been proceeded with during this year under Law 5 of 1871 for the absolute forfeiture of 13,264 acres and 375,226 square feet of land on which land tax and quitrents have not been paid for five years and upwards. The stage reached has been the publication in the London and Jamaica Gazettes and newspapers, for the second as well as the third and last time, of the statutory notification (No. 7) of particulars respecting the defaulters in arrear for 10 years' quitrent. The reversions to the Crown under this Law have amounted to about 90,000 acres, only a small portion of which has been either leased or re-patented.

Fifty acres of land at Tatespen, in the parish of St. Catherine, were taken possession of under the 184th section of Law 22 of 1874, and 15 squatters ejected. The land was subsequently leased out by Government to one tenant, at an annual rent of 15*l.* 10*s.* The extent of lands which have been recovered from squatters is now 26,975 acres.

JAMAICA.

No lands have been escheated during the year.

The sale of forfeited land under Law 5 of 1871 was restricted to one plantation of 880 acres in the parish of Portland, for which the sum of 250*l.* was received.

The lands leased by the Government to various persons during the year consisted of 50 acres in St. Catherine, 551 acres in Clarendon, and 102 acres in St. Andrew, at almost nominal rents, in the whole amounting to 62*l.* 10*s.*

The character of some of these lands was referred to in the last annual Report.

Public Works (other than Main Roads and Bridges).

The sums of 8,180*l.* and 10,999*l.* were spent respectively upon maintenance and new works, divided as follows:—

	Maintenance.	New Works.
	£	£
Churches, chapels, and rectories - - -	591	—
Courts and public offices - - - -	2,476	399
Prisons, reformatories, and police stations -	1,700	3,503
Hospitals and asylums - - - -	1,061	3,200
Miscellaneous works - - - -	2,352	3,277
Furniture - - - - -	—	273
Immigration buildings - - - -	—	347

Among the services included in the above may be noticed the following, under the head of maintenance.

Churches, Chapels, and Rectories.

Repairs to the Chapelton Rectory, Portland (Vere district of Clarendon) Church, and Lime Savannah Church.

Courts and Public Offices.

Gas fittings have been provided at the General Post Office.

Extensive repairs and painting on the following buildings:—The Supreme Court House, Kingston; the Island Secretary's office, Spanish Town; the court houses at 14 of the principal towns and stations in different parts of the Island; the Colonial Secretary's office; the General Post Office; the Customs offices at Kingston and Port Royal.

Minor alterations have been carried out to the Collector of Taxes' office, Morant Bay, and to the Customs' House offices at Montego Bay.

Considerable repairs and painting have been carried out at several of the prisons and constabulary stations throughout the island. Gas fittings have been provided at the General Penitentiary and the Constabulary Barracks, Kingston.

The range of 32 cells for females at the General Penitentiary, commenced last year, has been completed and handed over for occupation. Another range of 48 cells (for females) has also been

nearly completed. The Deputy Superintendent's quarter at the General Penitentiary, commenced last year, has been completed.

Extensive improvements, commenced during the last year, at the Stony Hill Reformatory have been completed.

Improvements have been carried out and additional accommodation provided at certain district prisons and constabulary stations, and a new constabulary station was erected at Ulster Spring in the interior part of the parish of Trelawny.

Hospitals and Asylums.

Considerable repairs and painting have been carried out at the Public Hospital and several parochial hospitals, including seven hospitals that were formerly a charge on the immigration funds.

Gas fittings have been laid on at the Public Hospital, the Lunatic Asylum, and the Lock Hospital.

Miscellaneous.

Extensive general repairs and painting have been carried out on various public buildings other than those already mentioned.

Roads and Bridges.

The total expenditure under this head has been 26,873*l.*, thus divided:

	£
Maintenance and repair of main roads and bridges	22,598
New works on main roads and bridges - -	4,275
	£26,873

The average cost of maintenance has been 30*l.* 9*s.* per mile, being the lowest rate since 1871–72, although the seasons have been quite as unfavourable as the average. In the previous six years the rates have been respectively 31*l.*, 33*l.*, 37*l.*, 49*l.* 16*s.*, 33*l.* 7*s.*, and 34*l.*

The Director of Roads reports that all the main roads, with one exception, are in good order, and the road excepted was about to be placed in good repair as soon as the dry weather set in. In a mountainous island like this there must at times of heavy rainfall be temporary obstruction and deterioration on the roads, but their general condition, to which all travellers can testify, is creditable evidence that these occurrences are soon remedied.

Four new bridges (one over the White River in St. Ann's, costing 2,560*l.*) have been completed, and other bridges have been restored and repaired.

In concluding his annual departmental report on the main roads, the Director of Roads remarks that the many important works which have been carried out in the last few years, particularly such as the construction of bridges where none existed before, is materially improving the general character of the roads, and urges as a matter of high importance, and well deserving of

JAMAICA.

early consideration, the extension of provision for like new works, many of which, especially in the eastern district, are much required.

The Rio Cobre irrigation works have been worked and maintained this year at a cost of 1,547*l.*; the revenue actually received during the year has been 1,124*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, but claims on proprietors of land for water supplied to the amount of 1,241*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.* remained unpaid at the close of the year; the gross revenue receivable for the year should have been, therefore, 2,366*l.*, as compared with the estimated amount of 2,000*l.* The payment of the interest on the loan with which these works were constructed has rendered necessary a payment of 7,277*l.* from general revenue in this year under the Colony guarantee. Under the head of agriculture will be found some remarks on the general question of irrigation.

In the unfavourable comments which are often made on these works the financial result in the demand made on the general revenue is alone kept in view. It is true that the works cost more than double their original estimate, but this circumstance is nothing specially extraordinary with regard to first enterprises in any country, and it is still to be seen whether the works which have not yet been three years in productive operation may not in a reasonable time be sufficiently productive to liquidate all calls on the public chest. In a sanitary point of view there can be no doubt that the dwellers along the banks and in the neighbourhood of the several irrigation canals enjoy an improved water supply, the value of which can scarcely be over-estimated.

District Courts.

The business transacted in each of the last 10 years is exhibited in the following summary:—

—	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Criminal trials -	1,256	1,712	1,831	2,437	2,679	3,210	3,545	3,862	3,707	4,054
Small causes -	3,133	5,509	7,321	7,396	8,050	7,982	8,531	9,446	9,212	9,616
Judgment summonses - - -	—	—	—	—	843	1,397	1,511	1,736	1,670	1,579
Equity cases -	2	10	13	15	13	7	5	6	8	21
Cases under the Land Law -	133	137	353	485	241	228	133	309	222	163
Bankruptcy cases -	9	147	42	5	8	6	4	13	17	5
Probate cases -	35	43	42	31	29	23	39	62	93	94
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed -	22,919	29,070	35,958	39,896	41,148	50,325	52,093	56,490	60,894	63,300
Judgment obtained	11,386	14,919	18,580	15,770	19,873	25,773	26,048	27,970	30,976	32,348
Costs - - -	2,109	2,774	3,350	3,493	3,810	4,212	4,812	4,952	5,531	5,626
Court fees - -	2,154	3,225	4,424	4,432	4,600	4,721	4,994	5,597	5,436	5,491

which, I think, shows increased usefulness from the operation of these tribunals. It will be seen that the number of small causes and equity cases has increased, as well as the amounts claimed,

and the sum of the judgments obtained. This must be regarded as evidence of confidence in the courts and increase of business.

There were but seven appeals from the decisions of these courts during the year, as against 13 in the preceding period; three being in civil and four in criminal cases, and judgment was reversed in only one case, one was dismissed, and in five cases judgments of the district courts were affirmed.

The promotion of two of the judges to offices in other Colonies allowed of the temporary re-distribution of their districts among four of the remaining five judges, with a small addition to their salaries, an arrangement which it is proposed to make permanent in the changes which will follow on the commencement of the operation of the recent Judicature Law.

Public Plantations and Botanical Gardens.

Cinchona Plantation.—This plantation has steadily improved during the year.

A quantity, some 1,424 lbs., of cinchona bark was sent to England for sale in August 1878, and realised the price of 2*s.* 10*d.* per lb. in the London market; a result which places beyond question the fact that bark of the best quality can be produced in Jamaica, and that the establishment of a highly remunerative plantation is only a matter of time and adequate expenditure to extend the cultivation sufficiently to compensate for the cuttings of successive years.

The cost of this plantation during the year has been 977*l.*

The Hope Plantation.—A considerable number of varieties of canes have been planted out experimentally, and their produce converted into sugar and rum at an adjoining estate's works. As, however, no accurate record of the quantity and varieties planted is available, and as there has been a practical difficulty in ascertaining the precise results on manufacture on such small scales, no definite advantages have been derived from these experiments.

The plantation has supplied a considerable quantity of cane cuttings to private parties during the year for propagation. The cost of this establishment during the year has been 691*l.*; but in view of the question of its future management, and of the proposal to establish an industrial school on these lands, the expenditure is in course of reduction.

The Palisadoes Plantation.—There are now about 1,005 bearing cocoa-nut trees on this at one time barren spit of sand, and about 18,043 of the same trees well advanced in growth. At a very moderate computation the trees should in a short time be a not inconsiderable source of revenue.

The Kingston Gardens.—These have been maintained in good order and are much frequented and appreciated by the inhabitants of the city.

The military band of the 1st West India Regiment, by the kind permission of the officers, has played in these gardens once a

JAMAICA.

week, to the evident enjoyment of the numbers who congregated to listen to the music, at a place, which, before the administration of Sir J. P. Grant, who commenced the arrangement of the garden, was little better than the kitchen midden of Kingston.

Castleton Gardens.—The following facts are taken from the Report of Mr. Jenman, the Assistant Superintendent, who has been transferred to the service of the Government of British Guiana.

Orchids.—Large and valuable additions have been made to this collection, which now numbers about 130 species, and includes a good number of the best kind, principally obtained from the mountains of the western side of tropical South America.

Ferns.—The Superintendent mentions as an object of interest in the collection added to the garden during the year a new species unknown to science of the genus Cyathea. It is a subject of the flora of Jamaica, and was discovered by Mr. Nock, of the Cinchona Plantation. It is exceptional in structure, for while the previously-known members of the genus uniformly rise, often ascending above other arboreous vegetation, this is acaulesant, not lifting its head clear of the ground. It is said to have a beautiful plume-like habit, and to promise to be an acquisition to cultivators of ornamental plants.

Palms.—Several additions have been made to this collection, including three of the peculiar and beautiful Seychellian species: Ceroxylon audicola, the wax palm of the Andes; Chamacrops Ritchiana, a native of the high table-land of Afghanistan and the northern parts of British India; Borascius flabelliformis, well known from its wide distribution in the Old World, and its general utility.

Two nuts of the double cocoa-nut were received from Mauritius and deposited to germinate. A large quantity of seed of Copernicia cerifera and other Brazilian palms has been received, from which hundreds of young plants are now growing. The first-mentioned is the Carnonba of the Brazils, and is of great economic value.

Arboretum.—Many of the trees in this section are of much interest, particularly a collection of Indian figs. One of the Indian teak trees is now fruiting, the first in the garden to arrive at this stage.

Climate of the Garden.—The rainfall was 117 inches for the whole year; this is not above the average, but during the last six months of the year the fall was four times as great as in the first part, and consequently great damage was done to the borders and paths of the garden. In the spring of the year the dry weather lasts about six weeks.

Propagation and Distribution of Plants and Seeds.—The Superintendent of the garden suggests the propagation in the lagoons of Jamaica of the Victoria Regia, and has expressed

himself as able to furnish seeds to anyone wishing to try the experiment.

Cocoa (Theohoma Cacao).—A large demand prevailed for plants of the best varieties. The trees of the Trinidad kind planted between four and five years ago have borne their fruit, from which about 400 plants have been raised.

The Superintendent reports that "much of the first lot of "seed obtained was lost by following the usual method of sowing "in the ground. Quite 70 per cent. failed. To meet this "serious loss he adopted cocoa-nut fibre refuse as a material for "the seed beds and since the change hardly a single seed has "perished."

A great difficulty exists in procuring seed fit for sowing, the majority of the seed obtained from Trinidad having perished on the voyage; great care and expedition is needed in the packing and transporting of the seed, its vitality being very fleeting, and easily destroyed.

An effort is being made to procure a supply of the famous Caracas cocoa as stock for the garden.

Liberian Coffee.—There has also been a great demand for seeds of this plant, which the garden has been unable to supply. A small parcel of seed received from Kew produced between four and five dozen plants, the majority of which have been planted out to increase the number of stock plants. Care will be taken by extending the plots now in cultivation to place the garden in a position to supply a great quantity of plants yearly. The first few trees received have this year borne a small crop of fruit, which has been gathered and sown.

The Superintendent reports of this coffee that "taking equal "numbers of average fruit of the two species (Arabian and "Liberian), grown, side by side on the same ground, the relative "weight of the Liberian was as eight to three of the Arabian. "It is slow in maturing, taking fully 12 months from the season "of flowering; and it appears probable that it will not be so "easily pulped as the ordinary kind. Making due allowance for "its much more robust growth, the same pruning and treatment "generally as is applied to the Arabian seem to be adapted to "the management of the Liberian."

Orange Plants.—There has been a greatly increased demand for orange plants compared with preceding years. This is doubtless due to the development of the fruit trade with America. People are beginning to see how profitable it is to cultivate this fruit, which requires little capital in its establishment, and is sure to meet with a ready market.

Indian Mangoes.—A few of those planted out at the Hope about four years ago will probably fruit this year. Attempts at in-arching these trees with the indigenous soils have been successful in only three dozen cases out of 100 in-archings. This disproportion is much greater than is usual, and is attributed to an exceptional cause.

JAMAICA.

Nutmegs.—The cultivation of this spice is extending, the supply of plants during the past year not having been found equal to the demand.

It is a great favourite for cultivation among the peasantry, particularly with those in the neighbourhood of Bath in St. Thomas.

Cloves have borne freely at the garden, and trees raised from seeds for distribution.

Cinnamon (C. Zeylamium) has not thriven in the garden, but another cinnamon, C. Cassia, grows luxuriantly, and plants of it are eagerly applied for by the peasantry, who use the bark for flavouring tea and for medicinal purposes.

Vanilla.—There has been a great demand for cuttings of this fragrant bean.

Tobacco.—The Superintendent speaks of the Bhilsa tobacco as having given great satisfaction to growers by its robust habit and immense yield. It only remains for its market value to be ascertained to justify cultivators in extending its cultivation widely. It is especially adapted for very wet districts.

Altogether there has been a great increase in the number of plants distributed during the year, owing to the extension of fruit and spice cultivation.

It is gratifying to observe that Mr. Jenman, the Superintendent of the Castleton Gardens, has completed a catalogue of the plants in the garden, and although it may not be as exhaustive as its compiler could wish it to be, I have no doubt that it will be of great service, besides supplying a foundation upon which others can work from time to time.

As regards the public plantations and gardens of the Colony generally, it may be mentioned in conclusion that it has been thought expedient to place them under separate control. Latterly they have been under the Department of Public Works, subject to the Director of Roads and Surveyor-General. But this arrangement was not altogether satisfactory, as the Public Works Department has enough of its own work, and the subordination of the plantation and gardens to that department led to the resignation of Mr. Thomson, the late Superintendent. On the arrival of the new Superintendent, recently appointed, who has had large experience in another tropical colony, this branch of the public service will be re-established as a separate one, of which the officer in charge will be immediately responsible to the Governor. Hopes are entertained that greater practical results in cultivation generally will be secured, and that much useful knowledge will be diffused among the community tending to progress and increased production.

Education.

During the year under review, 617 schools in different parts of the Island underwent inspection by the Government school inspectors; these schools had altogether 51,488 children on the books, with an average attendance of 29 679. The result of the

examinations was that only 30 schools failed to pass the standard, while 54 passed first class, 176 passed second class, and 343 passed third class. The average Government grant to each school aided during the year was 29*l.*, and the total education grant for the year, exclusive of departmental salaries, amounted to 18,572*l.* 6*s.*

There has been a satisfactory increase of 34 schools more under inspection in this than in the last year, with 1,156 more pupils on the books, and 494 more in average attendance.

The Inspector of Schools reports that the year has been one of the most trying the schools have experienced for a very long period, owing first to a drought in some districts during the early part of the year, which diminished the means of the people, and to a heavy and continuous rainfall all over the Island during the latter part, which materially interfered with the attendance of the children. In the face of these and other drawbacks, the Inspector speaks of the schools as having fairly held their position, while a good many have made very creditable progress. The bad state of the weather here referred to explains the fact that the number of pupils present on inspection was less by 638 than in the previous year, being 34,878 and 35,516 respectively.

As it was found that no satisfactory results were to be hoped for in most instances from the attempt made by several school managers to combine so-called industrial with school labour, new regulations were issued early in the year, which had the desired effect of excluding from further grants-in-aid these unsuccessful experiments; but there yet exists one good industrial school, employing regular tradesmen to give the necessary technical training, and to this school a grant of 64*l.* 6*s.* was allowed.

The Inspector of Schools, on the subject of industrial schools, says, "the experience of several years of observation and experi-
"ment has at length clearly shown that we have very little to
"hope for with regard to the successful adoption of agricultural
"pursuits in connexion with our ordinary day schools."

The failure of these schools has in a great measure resulted from objection on the part of parents to their children's time being employed in ever so slight a way in manual labour instead of in book learning, and in many cases the nature of the industry was not calculated to overcome the objection; with which I confess I feel some sympathy. The people naturally feel unwilling to pay for the pretence of instruction, which in most cases they could better impart themselves.

Elementary education has made very good progress during the 11 years the present system has been in operation, and its benefits are as a rule fully appreciated by the peasantry of the Island. The attention of the Government is now also being applied to the higher education.

Immigration.

At the close of the financial year there were 15,134 East Indian immigrants in this Colony, of whom 3,737 were under indenture,

JAMAICA.

5,112 had not completed their 10 years' residence, and 6,285 were time-expired immigrants.

Eight hundred and ninety-five Indians (souls) were introduced during the year, of whom it is satisfactory to observe that only a very slight per-centage (1·11) died on their way to this Island. These immigrants were allotted in the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Clarendon, Portland, and St. Mary.

Sufficient funds not being then available from the immigration revenues, and the limit of the borrowing powers of the loan for the introduction of immigrants having been reached, the persons who applied for these immigrants undertook to receive them on terms to be fixed by Government, and which were laid down in Law 7 of 1878, namely, the reimbursement by the employers of the entire cost of recruiting depôt expenses in India, passage money amount to be invested to provide back passage, and all other charges incidental to the introduction of the immigrants, except hospital expenses, which are to be borne by the general revenue, and bounty on colonisation, which will be defrayed from the accumulated colonisation and return passage fund as far as it will go, and thereafter from general revenues. It has subsequently been conceded that these allottees of labour shall be placed on the same footing as those who subsequently applied for immigrants.

The number of immigrants whose time had expired, and who were sent back to India this year was 237 souls, equal to 221½ statute adults. 40 of these people took with them Treasury bills for 2,136*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, or an average of over 53*l.* each.

The death rate among the indentured immigrants has been slightly above that of the previous year, 2·89 per cent., as against 2·79; and the birth rate considerably less, 0·93 per cent., to 2·24 per cent. in last year.

There was one case of wife murder, springing from the usual cause, jealousy; the culprit was tried, convicted, and executed.

The Agent-General in his annual report mentions that Mr. McPhail, a gentleman who employs Indian labour largely, has been so considerate as to open a school on his estate for the education of the children of the Indian labourers.

The 35th section of the new Consolidated Immigration Law gives the Protector power to order an immigrant child to be sent, at the charge of the general revenue, either to an industrial school or to the nearest suitable and convenient day school.

The medical care and treatment of all immigrants being now a charge on the general revenue, the hitherto distinctive character of the coolie union hospitals will no longer be continued, but in throwing all the hospitals open to both creoles and immigrants, and in placing the whole of them under the administration of the Medical Department, the special claims of the latter class in the terms of their indentures will not be disregarded.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in savings banks for the last 12 years are shown below :—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1867	2,278	54,807
1868	2,524	58,913
1869	3,004	74,394
1870	*469 †2,205 } 2,674	*£16,200 †£63,486 } 79,686
1871	*2,024 †982 } 3,026	*£93,776 †£11,702 } 105,478
1872	3,396	142,240
1873	3,962	158,933
1874	4,582	179,176
1875	5,061	228,028
1876	5,431	243,171
1877	5,756	253,983
1878	6,002	273,620

In the above amount of 273,620*l.* are included deposits on account of the following public funds :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Immigrant's colonisation fund - -	19,750	10	5
Immigrant's return passage fund - -	2,595	10	0
Sinking funds - - - -	17,636	13	0
Constabulary reward fund - - -	4,359	4	2
Constabulary pension fund - - -	13,576	16	7
Smith and Beckford's charity - -	2,160	2	8
Gray's charity - - - -	460	13	7
Merrick's charity - - - -	219	18	5
Managers, Jamaica Civil Service Mutual Guarantee Association - - -	202	5	1
	60,961	13	11

Of the remaining 5,952 depositors with accounts open in the books of the bank on the 30th September last, no less than 366, representing an amount of 9,296*l.*, were Indian immigrants.

It appeared further from returns laid before the Legislative Council at the instance of an unofficial member that a comparison, excluding the public fund accounts, of the numbers of depositors in 1871, the first year after the establishment of the Government

* Government Savings Bank. † Private savings bank.

JAMAICA.

Savings Bank under Law 22 of 1870, with those on the 30th September 1878, showed as follows :—

—	In 1878.	In 1871.
£	£	£
5 and under - -	2,795, or 46·9 per cent.	677, or 33·2 per cent.
10 „ - -	628, or 10·5 „	296, or 14·5 „
50 „ - -	1,488, or 25· „	645, or 31·6 „
100 „ - -	416, or 7· „	182, or 8·9 „
200 „ - -	321, or 5·4 „	154, or 7·5 „
300 „ - -	202, or 3·4 „	71, or 3·4 „
Over 300*l.* - -	102, or 1·7 „	13, or 0·6 „
	5,952	2,038

Of the deposits on 30th September 1878, 200,718*l.* were invested in colonial debentures of different descriptions, 5,851*l.* were advanced on notes of employers to whom coolies were indentured under the recent fiscal arrangements for immigration, and the remainder of 67,230*l.* were held by the public, bearing interest at 5 per centum under the 12th section of Law 20 of 1870; but in fact forming part of the funds in the hand of the Colonial Bank, for which that institution allows interest at the rate of 3 per cent. under an arrangement with the Colonial Government.

The steady increase in the number of depositors and amount of deposits will be noted, and must be regarded as indicating progress on the part of the general population in habits of thrift and providence.

Total number of depositors to 30th September 1878 - 6,002

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balances to 30th September 1878 :—		
Ordinary accounts -	199,216 10 4	
Government accounts	60,078 16 10	
Chancery accounts -	9,111 5 5	
Trusts - -	882 17 1	
Total amount of deposits - -	269,289 9 8	
Old savings' bank balances - -	1,085 16 2	
Profit and loss account - -	3,244 9 0½	
		273,619 14 10½
Total - -		£273,619 14 10½

Trade.

The value of the imports in each of the last 10 years is shown below :—

	£		£
1869 - -	1,224,414	1873–74 -	1,762,817
1870 - -	1,300,455	1874–75 -	1,759,942
1870–71 -	1,331,185	1875–76 -	1,700,254
1871–72 -	1,559,602	1876–77 -	1,552,339
1872–73 -	1,733,121	1877–78 -	1,492,722

being a decrease of 59,617*l.*, of which 50,780*l.* is on goods free from duty, when compared with the year immediately preceding, although the actual amount received from import duty is more than the receipts in 1876–77 by 10,930*l.*, of which 8,039*l.* were from the port of Kingston, and the total amount of shipping moving inwards and outwards exceeded that of 1876–77 by 97 vessels and 34,458 tonnage. The increase of duty is apparent on the articles of bread, 550*l.*; fish, dried, 2,038*l.*; flour, 3,951*l.*; matches, 1,648*l.*; meal, 1,242*l.*; oil, 1,316*l.*; pork, wet salted, 882*l.*; spirits, 604*l.*; tobacco, leaf, 506*l.*; tobacco, manufactured, 844*l.*; and in smaller amounts on beef wet; butter; candles, composite; cheese; salmon, pickled; gunpowder; hams; lard; cigars; wines; wood; pitch pine; cypress shingles; Boston chips. While there is a decrease of 3,555*l.* on ad valorem goods, and of 1,862*l.* in amounts below 500*l.*, on ale, beer, candles, wax, pickled fish, oats, rice, salt, soap, tea, wheat, wood, white pine. The following table, showing the values of articles imported which were free from duty in 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports :—

—	1869.	1870.	1870–71.	1871–72.	1872–73.	1873–74.	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.
Steam engines -	6,904	5,460	4,738	14,033	28,603	11,485	18,152	15,360	14,735	8,857
Mills - -	3,822	3,434	9,825	21,644	13,804	10,219	5,803	5,128	1,643	2,115
Other machinery -	6,644	7,844	11,420	5,165	9,149	5,026	11,331	2,434	11,443	3,113
Pans for boiling sugar.	2,409	4,676	4,301	6,052	4,603	2,839	3,649	1,318	2,134	2,483
Pipes for fluids -	1,202	2,493	2,165	1,801	19,687	1,801	1,830	1,955	3,755	2,095
Stills - -	2,977	1,698	1,878	1,906	6,076	3,986	6,848	3,153	1,619	1,880
Shooks of all sorts -	17,362	12,180	13,187	16,743	17,051	17,070	20,299	15,845	14,545	11,761
Staves - -	3,847	3,823	5,431	7,945	5,205	15,207	21,650	11,816	19,503	6,040
Wood hoops -	2,264	2,981	3,857	2,653	1,856	1,822	2,192	1,609	1,447	2,066
Iron, galvanized -	1,902	3,142	3,818	5,666	6,971	5,339	5,746	4,533	3,259	2,229
„ other manufactures.	1,215	1,933	84	56	—	462	—	5	—	381
Miscellaneous -	2,004	3,348	2,369	5,367	5,243	3,559	3,050	3,872	5,651	3,730
	52,552	53,012	63,073	89,031	118,248	78,815	100,550	67,028	79,734	46,750

The articles are almost entirely imported by the proprietors of sugar and rum estates. There is a marked diminution only in the amount of steam engines and other machinery, and of shooks and staves. The cost of a single plant, in either steam or other machinery, would occasion the decrease shown on the score of

JAMAICA.

machinery. The diminished value of the importation of shooks and staves is chiefly, I believe, attributable to the fact of which I have been informed, that staves made of colonial wood are being largely substituted for imported staves or shooks.

The value of the exports for each of the last 10 years is shown below :—

—	Values.		
	Of Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1869	1,052,562	110,207	1,162,769
1870	1,158,835	124,171	1,283,026
1870–71	1,196,532	52,153	1,248,685
1871–72	1,348,858	69,585	1,418,443
1872–73	1,144,173	81,838	1,226,011
1873–74	1,369,507	72,573	1,442,080
1874–75	1,359,868	50,616	1,410,484
1875–76	1,440,131	76,884	1,517,015
1876–77	1,419,625	39,004	1,458,669
1877–78	1,175,145	35,560	1,210,705

being a decrease of 247,964*l.* when compared with the value of the exports in the year before. The articles on which the largest decreases in value appear are rum, sugar, and logwood, which represent together 304,811*l.* On the other hand, the items of cattle 16,140*l.*, cocoa 6,781*l.*, fruit 17,113*l.*, mules 6,546*l.*, hides 562*l.*, lime-juice 1,284*l.*, pimento 7,549*l.*, and tobacco leaf 1,555*l.*, go to reduce that falling off, and may be considered as some evidence of the directions which local industry is taking.

The large decrease in sugar and rum is not due only to the diminished quantity exported, but also to depreciated prices in consequence of which the valuations for these statistical purposes have been very considerably reduced. The decrease in production has been mainly caused by a drought, which prevailed in the northern portion of the Island during the autumn of 1876, and retarded to a considerable extent the growth of the canes, succeeded by heavy and continuous rains during the manufacturing season, which caused a very low per-centage of saccharine matter to be obtained. The partial abandonment of estates in some parishes, and the total abandonment of eight estates in others, are also stated to have contributed to this cause; but, as the amount of canes in cultivation on which the property tax of 3*d.* an acre has been paid,—

In 1874–75, on 47,979 acres.
„ 1875–76, on 47,521 „
„ 1876–77, on 46,023 „
„ 1877–78, on 46,333 „

it can only be referred either that other sugar estates have extended their cultivation, or that the 5,000 small mills in 1871 have been greatly added to in number, or that the Island consumption, which had been placed at 6,000 hhds., has much increased.

The decrease in logwood is attributable partly to fall in price, and partly to the fact that most of the ripe wood has been cleared from the lowlands, whence it could be cheaply removed, and that which remains is situated in such remote and inaccessible districts that the prices realised are barely sufficient to defray the cost of bringing it to market; but prices have again risen and there will be increased activity in wood-cutting. The exports of the principal staples for the last 10 years are shown in the following table:—

Exports.	1869.	1870.	1870-71.	1871-72.	1872-73.	1873-74.	1874-75.	1875-76.	1876-77.	1877-78.
Sugar - - hhds.	29,268	30,747	37,010	35,353	28,428	28,398	27,847	29,074	30,569	26,066
Rum - - phns.	15,270	16,897	19,376	20,113	16,584	19,350	21,359	22,048	20,648	18,115
Coffee - - lbs.	5,025,812	9,047,284	5,508,989	9,510,739	7,199,144	10,311,427	7,136,307	8,649,049	9,532,887	9,411,662
Pimento - lbs.	6,575,249	5,243,109	6,857,830	5,140,898	6,024,551	5,762,256	6,440,040	4,474,690	6,670,603	6,195,109
Dyewoods — fustic and logwood - tons	118,678	84,744	59,951	80,699	52,952	65,241	84,523	77,229	47,697	36,070
Ginger - lbs.	1,261,873	680,492	632,031	599,766	815,659	1,181,789	1,490,845	1,613,764	1,097,863	908,603
Arrowroot - lbs.	11,731	6,343	5,820	13,193	2,470	1,636	21,983	21,152	3,514	4,599

The statement of the value of the fruit exported is shown below:—

	£
1871–72 - - -	6,190
1872–73 - - -	4,750
1873–74 - - -	10,397
1874–75 - - -	9,337
1875–76 - - -	20,526
1876–77 - - -	22,350
1877–78 - - -	39,451

This increase is in bananas 15,021*l.*, in oranges 1,594*l.*, and in limes, mangoes, pine-apples, and plaintains, of small amounts. Nearly the whole of this fruit goes to the United States by the contract steamers and by fast schooners from the north side, and there is no doubt that with additional means of local transport between the different ports and places within the Colony, and with improved parochial roads, the export to the neighbouring American market could be greatly multiplied.

In view of the depressed state of trade throughout the world at the time under report, the foregoing results may be accepted as not altogether unsatisfactory.

It is remarkable that they do not present worse features.

Agriculture.

The estimated acreage of this Colony is 2,720,000 acres. Of this the revenue collections show :—

		Acres.
Under cultivation in crops - - -		121,457
Pastoral :		
Guinea grass - -	120,264	
Pasture - -	318,549	
		438,813
Wood and ruinate - - - -		1,217,596
making a total accounted for of - -		1,777,866

The remainder of 942,134 acres can be accounted for as unpatented primeval forest, or rocky land of no value.

The main industries of the Colony are agricultural and pastoral, there being no manufactories in operation other than those connected with or dependent on agriculture.

From the returns of the collections of property tax under Law 26 of 1868, it appears that the area under cultivation of the more important staples of the Island was as follows for the last four years :—

	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Canes - - -	47,979	47,521	46,023	46,333
Coffee - - -	20,101	20,174	20,817	21,430
Pimento - -	1,915	2,363	1,813	969
Ginger - - -	147	227	177	144

The average of some minor products under cultivation during the same period was as follows :—

	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.
Arrowroot - -	59	61	51	47
Corn - - -	1,269	1,677	1,390	1,213
Ground nuts - -	5	3	3	2
Cotton - - -	—	1	1	—
Tobacco -	297	442	331	380
Cacao - - -	43	44	41	21

It would appear from these returns that there has been a falling off under all the above heads as compared with last year, except under canes, coffee, and tobacco. Coffee cultivation has increased year by year during the last four years, until in the year under review there appear to be 1,338 acres more cultivated than in 1874–75 ; and the area under tobacco is only excelled by the year 1875–76, and is above the acreage in 1874–75 and 1876–77.

In many cases the decrease under the other heads is only apparent and not real. For instance, in the case of pimento, there has not been the least diminution in its cultivation. On the contrary, the improved prices in the London market have induced many people to rescue large tracts of land bearing pimento trees which have hitherto been allowed to remain in jungle and high ruinate. The apparent decrease is caused, I am informed, by ingivers not taking the trouble to observe the distinction in their returns to the collector of taxes between "common pasture," "pimento," and "common pasture and pimento."

In the pimento districts of Manchester and St. Ann especially, and in other parishes to some extent, every pasture, and indeed the land generally, is thickly interspersed with pimento planted by the hand of Nature.

With regard to tobacco cultivation, it may be said to have only taken a place in the industries of the Colony within the last few years. Political troubles in Cuba drove over here a large number of natives of that Island, many of whom had been engaged there in the cultivation and manufacture of the plant, who, finding here suitable soil and climate in various localities, embarked in its cultivation. Being successful they have for the most part continued their plantations, although invited to return under the amnesty recently proclaimed. It is the frequent observation of these foreigners themselves that there is no reason why Jamaica cigars should not have a celebrity equal to those of Havana.

The most extensive tobacco plantations in the Island are those of Potosi in St. Thomas parish, and Morgan's Valley in Clarendon. A great deal of the produce of these plantations is shipped to the German market, but the remainder is manufactured here into cigars for Island consumption. These are said to be excellent in quality, and quite equal to some of the best Cuban brands.

They have certainly earned a name for themselves in the Island itself, where a prejudice against home-made cigars at one time deservedly existed. In England trade traditions and a mistaken preference for something foreign have alone, I am sure, militated against the acceptance of these cigars, but I am glad to learn within the last few days that the industry and enterprise of those who have placed their labour and money in Potosi are promised some reward in the deserved favour with which their tobacco is beginning to be regarded at home.

And I have reason to think that cigars manufactured from the Clarendon plantation at Morgan's Valley are establishing a reputation for themselves in London.

Tobacco is, and has been for very many years, cultivated by the peasantry here in small patches, and interspersed among the other productions of their provision fields. From this tobacco they manufacture a smoke-dried leaf, and a collection of these leaves twisted together in the form of a rope is sold very readily in the local markets of the interior. Tobacco of a much superior description could well be produced if the peasantry were acquainted with the proper methods of cultivation and manufacture.

JAMAICA.

It is to be presumed that in the course of time much will be learnt by them in this respect from the many Cubans settled here, and that they will be induced to take a lesson and produce an article suitable for exportation for which they can demand and obtain a good price.

The great decrease in the returns of 22 acres in the cultivation of cacao in 1877–78, as compared with 1874–75, must, I think, be attributed to the fact that as cacao shrubs become trees other things are planted beneath their shade, and instead of giving in for the land as under cacao cultivation it is represented as being "provision ground." As a matter of fact, the export of cacao has increased more than four-fold this year over that of last year, the figures being :—

	cwt.	qr.	lb.
1877–78 - - -	1,694	1	0
1876–77 - - -	375	2	1

Besides, a considerable quantity of cacao of native growth is used in the Island. Considerable interest is manifesting itself in connexion with the cultivation of this plant, owing to the increased demand for the product in the European market, but as it takes some three years before the tree produces fruit, the activity now displayed cannot of course result in increased exportations before that time.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain faithful returns of land in fruit cultivation, but as showing the extent of this industry in the present as compared with past years the following figures are useful :—

EXPORTS of certain Descriptions of Fruit during last Four Years.

——	1877–78.	1876–77.	1875–76.	1874–75.
Bananas - bunches	313,145	162,934	58,411	132,832
„ (dried) lbs.	160	—	—	—
Limes - - barrels	1,478	$634\frac{1}{2}$	635	828
Mangoes - No.	19,400	600	57,820	5,800
Oranges - No.	10,246,550	8,238,940	4,673,820	9,764,972
Pineapples - doz.	1,140	$33\frac{2}{12}$	$389\frac{4}{12}$	$295\frac{10}{12}$
Grape fruit - No.	2,700	—	—	—

In the above list there are only two fruits, bananas and pine-apples, that can be said to be cultivated, the rest for the most part growing wild, unpruned and untended, yet producing luxuriantly. The export trade in fruit is carried on now from many ports of the Island, but Port Antonio, as it was the first outport where the trade was developed, so it is still the one where the largest business is done in this line.

The following figures show the acreage returned as under vegetables and ground provisions in Portland during the last four years :—

——	1877–78.	1876–77.	1875–76.	1874–75.
Vegetables - -	195	10	9	6
Ground provisions -	3,427	3,965	4,139	4,141

It can be taken as a fact that the greater portion of this acreage is under banana cultivation; and so profitable must it be that many cultivators are abandoning the planting of yams and other ground provisions, which previously is said to have been very remunerative, and substituting bananas for them.

Grazing Pens.

These pens are for the most part situate in the parishes of St. Catherine, St. Ann, Manchester, Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland, and St. Elizabeth. Guinea grass being the principal fodder of the cattle on these pens, the measure of importance of the parishes in relation to cattle-breeding may be taken to be the number of acres under its cultivation. The figures are as follows:—

——	1874–75.	1875–76.	1876–77.	1877–78.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
St. Catherine - -	12,808	12,484	12,864	13,280
St. Ann - - -	24,313	24,752	25,242	25,127
Manchester - -	9,018	7,859	9,221	9,068
Trelawny - -	18,278	19,134	18,997	18,923
St. James - -	7,849	8,135	8,388	8,466
Hanover - - -	6,073	5,909	5,976	6,019
Westmoreland - -	10,560	10,719	10,500	10,042
St. Elizabeth - -	15,502	15,948	15,690	15,474

The number of acres under vegetable and ground provision cultivation, in which perhaps the larger proportion of the peasantry is engaged, is returned at 51,878 acres for the year under review, as against 47,472 acres in 1874–75, 48,585 in 1875–76, and 49,381 acres in 1876–77, showing a steady increase in each year. But, as stated before, much that is returned under this head is really to be classed under "Fruit Cultivation."

It is difficult to understand why the irrigation afforded by the Rio Cobre Canal is not rendered more extensively useful. In the case of fruit alone, for the cultivation of which the irrigated lands are well suited, there is, as has been shown, a large demand for export, and transport is easy to the neighbouring port of Kingston. It has been demonstrated that small areas of even 10 acres can be cultivated under irrigation with large and certain profit. As evidence, however, that the advantages of this irrigation are not altogether unappreciated, it may be mentioned that on the Caymanas Estates, situate between Kingston and Spanish Town, the cultivation has been extended and new and improved ma-

JAMAICA.

chinery is to be erected, avowedly in consequence of the certainty in agricultural operations which is bestowed by the command of water.

In the irrigated lands around Spanish Town the first banana tree was planted in September 1876, and so well has the cultivation succeeded in the district in consequence of this continuous supply of water that already it has led to the establishment of about 300 acres in the short space of three months, and a company has been lately formed for the cultivation of fruit on a large scale on a long abandoned estate which will be irrigated by the Rio Cobre Canal.

The application of irrigation to grazing pens has enabled the proprietors for comparatively very small payments, not only to carry on the lands a much increased number of stock without any loss from drought and to actually rear the produce where formerly milch cows would not thrive, but also to avoid the loss and deterioration on the travelling of stock on the necessary removals at periods of drought to higher and better watered lands. I have a strong conviction that viewed as a means of preserving and increasing the public wealth those works are by no means even now unproductive.

Police.

On the 30th September 1878 the police force of the Colony consisted of 22 officers, 117 sub-officers, and 576 constables; deducting the sub-officers and men on staff and other detached duty, recruits in training, and officers, there was an effective force of 595 men. To these must be added 165 rural headmen of police, making a total of 760 effectives, or one policeman to every 666 of the population.

The duties discharged by the police during the year included the arrest of 5,662 persons on view and on information, and 2,356 on warrant, 9,007 persons were served with summonses, and 17,148 with subpœnas, 106 search warrants were executed, and 344 post mortem examinations ordered.

The number of cases disposed of by the inferior courts was 10,100, of which 5,908 resulted in conviction. The more serious of these cases were malicious injury to property, 14; prædial larceny, 136; other offences against property, 658; the remainder were of the usual petty session class.

The cases sent up to the superior courts with remanets of the previous year stood at 5,695, of which 2,994 resulted in conviction and 1,592 in acquittal, 861 were abandoned, and 248 remained over for the next year.

The convictions may thus be classified:—

Murder - - - - - -	4
Manslaughter - - - - -	6
Concealment of birth - - - -	3
Rape and attempts - - - -	18
Unnatural crimes - - - -	6
Other offences against the person - -	856

Malicious injuries to property - - -	37
Larceny with violence - - - -	93
Prædial larceny - - - - -	858
Other offences against property - - -	429
Miscellaneous offences - - - -	684

It is apparent how small in proportion to the population, estimated at 540,000, are the cases of very serious crime, or even of petty offences, considering the character of the country and the population.

The number of convictions in all courts for offences against property was 1,227, against 1,782 in the preceding year, and was the smallest number during six years.

The convictions for prædial larceny were 998, and included convictions for larceny of small stock, dyewoods, growing trees, and growing provisions; previous to the passing of Law 6 of 1877 prædial larceny was held to be the robbing of provision grounds and homesteads, but since the law came into operation the theft of any vegetable production in any land appropriated to cultivation has been made an offence punishable by whipping, and this punishment was carried out in 250 cases.

The value of the stolen property in most of these cases was very trifling, but the frequency of this crime and its demoralising effect on the industry of the peasant proprietors was held to call for its stringent repression.

The Inspector-General reports that he has issued instructions for energetically working the rules relating to the action of the constabulary in carrying out the objects and provisions of all the sanitary laws of the Colony, and has directed them to aid in every way the health and medical officers in this respect. And orders have also been issued to put into operation all other conservancy and municipal laws.

To secure a proper supervision of the criminal classes and to provide against nocturnal depredations in the country districts the Inspector-General has directed that the rural patrols shall be energetically carried out, and their attention has also been specially directed to prædial larcenies and to cases of cattle mutilation, and the Inspector-General reports that in those districts where this crime principally prevails he is preparing an organisation for its discovery, the failure to that end of large government rewards having been fully proved.

The subject of town patrols has also received attention, and in Kingston the block system introduced in 1876 has been considerably extended.

From the reports of the Inspectors of Police the state of crime in the several parishes of the Island may be summarised in brief as follows:—Kingston, larceny from dwelling-houses the most prevalent offence, in most cases committed by servants, who as a rule are employed without a character being required. From the nature of the climate and the habits of the people this class of offences is rendered easy of perpetration, for, as a rule, doors and windows are open all day, and not unfrequently at night also.

JAMAICA.

Locks on houses are seldom used, and as a general rule the fastenings of a house offer a premium to burglary. But it is not from large burglaries that the householders suffer, but from petty pilfering of portable articles.

Shop breaking and larceny from counting-houses, &c. furnishes 19 cases, but, as the Inspector remarks, this cannot be considered large for a city like Kingston, with over 34,000 inhabitants, and a comparatively large floating population of the criminal class.

In regard to this class of cases, also, it may be said that the insecure condition of the shops and the careless fastening of places of business generally tends to offer inducement to shop-breaking which would not be present if a great deal of ingenuity and labour had to be employed, as in other countries, for the attainment of the desired object. In Jamaica the class of professional burglars does not exist.

Manchester.—There has been a decrease in crime on the whole, the most prevalent being larcenies of goods and moneys, prædial larceny (which has increased), and larceny of horse kind.

Clarendon.—There was an increase in the number of logwood larcenies, but this was owing to the greater desire to proceed in these cases, since the prædial larceny law gives the accused no option of a fine.

Prædial larceny had also increased, but here again it was the certainty of punishment under the law which induced the prosecutors to press their cases.

In the sugar growing district of Vere the prevailing crime was larceny of canes and cocoa-nuts.

St. Ann's.—The absence of crimes of a serious nature is very marked. Prædial larceny largely increased, and as suddenly fell, owing to the operation of the law which is now generally known.

Simple larceny has been on the increase.

Vagrancy the Inspector reports to have been very infrequent, the few cases that occurred having been disposed of. No new cases have arisen.

Trelawny.—Crime in general has been on the increase, especially the larceny of growing produce.

Portland.—There has been a diminution in the classes of crime most prevalent heretofore, viz., larceny of growing crops and small stock.

St. Catherine.—Prædial larceny appears to prevail in most districts of this parish, and as regards the larceny of small stock, the Inspector very fairly points out that this description of crime will continue so long as people allow their stock to wander far from their houses.

Hanover.—Crime is reported as not on the increase, but there has been a slight increase in prædial larceny.

St. James.—Prædial larceny is on the decrease, and the decrease of crime generally was made the subject of remark to the jurors by the Chief Justice at the last sitting of the Circuit Court at Montego Bay.

St. Mary.—The number of apprehensions for crimes exceeded that for the previous year, but is accounted for by the special patrol system now worked.

Feloniously wounding horses, &c. is a crime not rare in one district of this parish, and unfortunately the perpetrators are very rarely discovered. To the belief in obeah is ascribed the difficulty of obtaining information respecting these occurrences, although large rewards have been offered.

St. Andrew.—No more serious crime than the larceny of poultry seems to obtain in this parish to any considerable extent.

Westmoreland.—Larceny of growing crops and of canes has apparently increased, but the Inspector accounts for it by saying that there is a greater disposition now to prosecute before the district courts, where less time is lost than there used to be when the offences were tried in magistrates' courts irregularly held.

Crime generally has not increased.

St. Elizabeth.—Crime has been slightly on the increase. Larceny of logwood and of provisions appears to be the most frequent.

St. Thomas.—Crime is said to be stationary, or, if anything, on the increase, the crime most prevalent being prædial and simple larceny.

Prisons.

At the close of the year there were 1,269 prisoners in custody in all the prisons and gaols of the Colony, being an increase of 10 on the last year.

For the last five years the numbers stand as follows:—

1874 - -	1,003	1877 - -	1,259
1875 - -	1,130	1878 - -	1,269
1876 - -	1,202		

The increases have taken place during the year in the committals to district and short-term prisons on sentences under one year, while there was a decrease of 91 in the numbers sentenced to the general penitentiary.

The cost per diem of dieting the prisoners in the gaols, district and short-term prisons has been as follows for the last five years:—

——	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Middlesex and Surrey Gaol -	3·050	3·150	3·351	3·193	2·927
St. Catherine's District Prison -	3·198	3·257	3·437	3·343	3·460
Falmouth District Prison -	3·762	4·060	4·061	4·041	3·961
Mandeville „ „ - -	4·369	3·905	4·034	4·206	4·470
Hanover „ „ - -	3·468	3·834	3·284	2·823	2·567
St. Mary's „ „ - -	3·307	3·880	3·864	2·949	3·430
Morant Bay Short-Term Prison -	4·739	3·892	4·120	3·770	4·181
Black River „ „ -	3·783	3·068	4·861	3·485	3·210
Montego Bay „ „ -	3·808	3·855	2·630	2·754	2·058
St. Ann's Bay „ „ -	3·321	5·238	4·225	4·230	3·740
Port Antonio „ „ -	3·638	3·673	4·060	3·562	4·492

	£	s.	d.
The gross expenditure of the general penitentiaries for the year has been - -	13,525	15	3
The gross expenditure of the gaols, and district and short-term prisons has been - -	8,002	5	9
Total - - -	21,528	1	0
The gross cash earnings of the general penitentiaries, gaols, district and short-term prisons has been for the same time - - -	10,497	1	3
Making the total net cost of prisoners -	11,030	19	9

or an average of 8*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.* per annum for each prisoner in confinement.

In connexion with the prædial larceny law, the Inspector of Prisons reports that of the whole number of 228 sentenced during the year under that law to be flogged only six have returned to prison during the same period for a similar offence.

The prison library continued to be greatly appreciated, and the religious services were punctually conducted during the past year.

The death rate during the year in the general penitentiaries was 33·95 per thousand on the average daily prison population of 648. There were 25 cases of pneumonia during the year, but the disease was on the whole of a mild type, only one death having resulted.

Thirty-two newly built cells in the female penitentiary were occupied for the first time during the year, and 48 more were in course of construction.

General.

The line of railway between Kingston and Olo Harbour, a distance of about 25 miles, continued in operation, but in a very unsatisfactory manner owing to the bad condition of the permament way and of its rolling stock.

Negociations were opened during the year for its purchase by the Government. This has since been completed.

The traffic returns for the year give the following as the result of its working in comparison with the previous year:

	1878.	1877.
Passengers - - - -	116,275	129,467
Horses - - - - -	560	646
Carriages - - - -	171	194
Cattle - - - - -	902	860
Sheep - - - - -	379	481
Goats - - - - -	81	63
Pigs - - - - -	271	390
Bundles of grass (28 lbs.) - -	385,393	348,154
Bundles of wood (12 lbs.) - -	99,402	88,265
Tons of merchandise - - -	15,561	17,277

The West India and Telegraph Company furnished the following particulars of its business in Jamaica during the year in comparison with the previous year:

—	1878.	1877.
Messages received - - -	2,041	2,178
Messages dispatched - -	2,229	2,105

The Atlas Steamship Company's contract for mail communication between Kingston and New York work very satisfactorily during the year, and so profitably it may be presumed that instead of a steamer once in three weeks as before, the Company have since commenced running a steamer every second week, without any addition to the subsidy previously paid.

An attempt was made during the year to run a steamer round the Island in addition to a Royal Mail steamer which calls at certain outposts once a month, but this experiment was brought to a sudden end by the wreck of the vessel through gross incompetence or mismanagement.

The general health of the Island was not disturbed by any serious epidemic during the year, but fevers of a low type were prevalent, owing, no doubt, to the almost continuous rainfall, and there were some sporadic cases of fatal character.

Births and Deaths Registration.

The births and deaths registration law was put in operation during the year commencing on 1st April, and very fair success has attended it.

An abstract of the returns for the half-year ended 30th September is given below, and the numbers of deaths from the chief "causes" are also shown. In this initiatory stage of the work, and considering the scattered and remote abodes of the peasantry, doubtless some cases both of births and deaths have escaped registration. From the registrations made, however, it appears that the annual natural increase of population is over 6,000, and during the half-year the birth rate was 33·1 and the death rate 21·9 per 1,000 persons living.

Parish.	Estimated Population.	Births.				Deaths.				Deaths under One Year to 100 Births.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Annual Rate per 1,000 Persons living.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Annual Rate per 1,000 Persons living.	
Kingston - -	37,847	237	223	460	29·5	292	286	578	30·5	20
St. Andrew - -	34,944	341	327	668	38·2	204	194	398	22·7	14
St. Thomas - -	36,036	232	254	486	26·9	197	196	393	21·8	21
Portland - -	27,918	255	237	492	35·2	168	171	339	24·2	17
St. Catherine -	59,528	474	454	928	31·1	303	255	558	18·7	16
St. Mary - -	40,252	354	309	663	32·9	249	189	438	21·7	16

Parish.	Estimated Population.	Births.				Deaths.				Deaths under one Year to 100 Births.
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Annual Rate per 1,000 Persons living.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Annual Rate per 1,000 Persons living.	
St. Ann - -	43,618	373	358	731	33·5	188	214	402	18·4	15
Clarendon - -	47,147	394	424	818	34·6	218	205	423	17·9	13
Manchester - -	42,932	434	464	898	41·8	195	165	360	16·7	12
St. Elizabeth - -	49,853	515	471	986	39·5	259	241	500	20·	14
Westmoreland -	45,025	387	362	749	33·2	271	252	523	23·2	19
Hanover - -	29,018	224	203	427	29·4	204	228	432	29·7	24
St. James - -	32,360	268	254	522	32·2	190	203	393	24·2	25
Trelawny - -	31,778	205	212	417	26·2	186	206	392	24·6	23
The whole Island -	558,256	4,693	4,552	9,245	33·1	3,124	3,005	6,129	21·9	17

PRINCIPAL CAUSES of DEATH for half-year 1st April to 30th September 1878.

Total deaths registered during half-year -	6,129
Infantile diseases - - - -	1,044
Fever (infantile) - - - -	480
Phthisis - - - - -	421
Fever (undistinguished) - - -	420
Old age - - - - -	415
Dropsy - - - - -	272
Infantile convulsions - - - -	242
Dysentery - - - - -	217
Ulcers - - - - -	141
Diarrhœa - - - - -	139
Heart disease - - - - -	78
Asthma - - - - -	711
Tetanus - - - - -	59
Brain disease - - - - -	54
Yellow fever* - - - - -	10

These statistics are necessarily as yet imperfect, but I believe the Registrar General is doing his best to improve them. At least no birth or death is recorded which is not known, and births are more likely to escape notice than deaths. This much is, I think, already obvious, that the population is steadily increasing, and in this respect presents a pleasing difference from the condition of other West Indian Colonies, where the numbers of the population are stationary, if not diminishing.

Tranquillity existed throughout the Island, no serious breaches of the peace having occurred.

This Colony could hardly have been expected to escape its share of the universal depression which has prevailed in trade, but the local statistics do not deny the hope that with the removal

* Of these, nine cases were in Kingston and one in the adjoining parish of St. Andrew.

of the causes which seem to have obtained everywhere, the Colony will have passed favourably through the trial, and will take its share of the returning improvement.

Concluding Remarks.

It is impossible indeed, I think, for anyone to examine with attention the various statistics which have now been reviewed without admitting the evidence which they afford to the growth in prosperity of the mass of the people, and I wish to call attention to them because the beliefs prevalent in England with regard to the condition of Jamaica are exceedingly erroneous.

It is apparent on a comparison of years that the productions of even what are called the chief staples has not fluctuated or diminished more than is common in all places to all agricultural products liable to great variation of seasons and of prices. But there is, of course, no doubt of the fact that the competition of beetroot sugar with cane sugar, and of other spirits with Jamaica rum, have subjected the sugar planters to a trying ordeal, so trying that it may afford satisfaction to those interested in the prosperity of the community as a whole to notice the fact that Jamaica is no longer dependent for her existence or the maintenance of her public institutions upon the fortunes of the sugar estates.

Persons unaccustomed to consider the scientific bearing of the questions involved are apt to connect magnitude of exports with the idea of prosperity. On the contrary, I have had occasion in another place to observe that a community in which the value of exports annually exceeded the imports was the poorest of which I had any knowledge, so far as the mass of the labouring people were concerned, and in that place I have known nearly one third of the whole revenue expended on pauper relief, though it was true that persons resident elsewhere made large fortunes out of the trade. I do not notice it as matter of reproach, but simply as a fact of which an administrator must take note, that the greater number of the sugar plantations and some of the best of the pens are the property of persons not residing in the Colony, and such profits as accrue from their cultivation and the exports of their produce do not benefit the Colony or its institutions by returning to it. Only that part of the gross proceeds of that produce and those exports which is spent in the Colony, for wages and otherwise, can be taken into account. And when it is remembered that, as could easily be shown by statistics, not more than about 5 per cent. of the total population of both sexes and all ages obtain employment in respect of the sugar plantations; in other words, not more than about 25,000, or perhaps 30,000, out of a population of 540,000, it seems plain that the time has past when the interest of the sugar planters could be considered as that to which everything else must give way. It is equally plain that the revenue, almost entirely raised from imports and excise, cannot be greatly dependent upon the consumption of this very small portion of the total population, and that, if they should unfortu-

nately be thrown out of employment by the misfortunes of their employers, greatly as those misfortunes must be lamented, both for their own sake and on account of the decay of an important industry, still that is no ground for fear that the public revenue or public institutions would suffer for any long time or to any great extent in a country with so many resources to which labour can be and is profitably applied.

It is to be regretted that these facts are by no means so well understood as it is desirable that they should be. The contrary and very erroneous impression has prevailed that everything for Jamaica depended upon the continuance of sugar cultivation. The sugar planting interest has therefore been allowed to a great extent to dominate, and it has used its influence in a manner often very much opposed to its own interests as well as to those of the community generally. As a matter of fact there is no interest so little taxed. The general taxation is exceedingly light as compared with other places, and the taxation, such as it is, is raised almost entirely from the mass of the population, of whom so few are employed by the sugar planters. Yet none are so loud as the sugar planters and their organs in the public press in their denunciations of an imaginary burdensome taxation. If they really understood their own interests, in a place where population is abundant, the people alleged to be idle, and labour to be very scarce, they would encourage the Government to impose taxation which, while equitable in its bearing, should exercise that kind of pressure which would gently coerce or induce labour to satisfy wants or indulge desires for luxuries.

Instead of this, their energies are applied, while contributing little or nothing comparatively themselves to the requirements of which they have the greatest need, to exciting opposition on the part of the true taxpayers to the financial arrangements or policy of the Government. While, at the same time, the late surplus of existing revenue over necessary expenditure which might have been applied with advantage to many purposes—to build bridges and improve the parochial roads among others—for the benefit of the general taxpaying population, has been totally absorbed in payment of debts and fulfilling the obligation of the proprietors of sugar estates on account of Indian immigration, in which certainly 500,000 of the total 540,000 of the population have no interest whatever.

The results are mischievous, for there can be no doubt of the expediency and eventual benefit of many public improvements that cannot be attempted without funds which it would not be prudent to borrow without provision for their repayment; and materially to reduce expenditure in other directions would simply be to dispense with public services and works which are absolutely necessary to the progress and development of the community.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

August 6th, 1879.

MAP OF BRITISH HONDURAS.

Shewing

Mr FOWLER'S TRACK ACROSS

PREVIOUSLY UNEXPLORED TERRITORY.

CUBA

CARIBBEAN SEA.

YUCATAN.

GUATEMALA.

BR. HONDURAS.

HONDURAS GULF

HONDURAS.

SALVADOR.

NICARAGUA.

COSTA RICA.

LINE OPENED BY Lt ABBS 1867.

BRITISH HONDURAS 1860.

Rio Hondo.

New River.

Northern River.

Driving Camp

Indian Church

Tiger Bank

River Bravo.

Booths River.

Canal Bank

Holotorich

Belize

Flour Camp

San Jose

Water

Fireburn

Blue

Old River.

Belize or

San Peavo

THE CAY 5205 ft

TRACK.

River Sibun.

Road to Peten.

790 ft

GARRUTS

PLANCUA

FALLS

PIESA

SOCCOTNS

BENQUS VIEDO

MACAW BANK

MECHLIN'S

Manatee River.

VILLAGE

Golson Point.

Mullins River

17°

1450 ft

WOODED COUNTRY.

PINE RIDGE

Starn Creek.

1000 ft

San Toriba

GRASSY COUNTRY

DOLERE'S

LARGE MAHOGANY

CEDAR & SANTA MARIA.

GUATEMALA AND BRITISH HONDURAS BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN

OPEN GRASSY LANDS.

Mr FOWLER'S TRACK

INHABITED

Sittee River.

PINE RIDGE 8350 ft

Mr DRAKE'S TRACK.

All Pines.

Quesay.

WOODED COUNTRY

2260 ft

Indian Ruins 2500 ft

COCKSCOMBS 4000 ft

Jonathan Point.

1200 ft

1650 ft

1585 ft

1885 ft

Indian Ruins

1850 ft

3200 ft

2810 ft

Sennis R.

Point Plagentia

Monkey River.

Deep River

Peten Sak

Poctum

San Luis.

Unexplored Territory.

Golden Stream.

SEVEN HILLS 470 ft

Point Youcos

Rio Machaquila.

Rio Grande.

1000 ft

Moho River

126 ft

Punta Gorda

Rio de la Pasion or Izabal.

River

FLAT COUNTRY

700 ft

Tomash

River Sarstoon.

GULF OF HONDURAS

CAPE THREE POINTS

HONDURAS.

GUATEMALA.

89°

18°

17°

16°

Dangerfield. Lith. 22 Bedford St Covent Garden.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 5.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR BARLEE, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Belize,
December 10, 1879.

SIR,

IN my Despatch of 5th April last I alluded to an expedition that had been made by a small party under the command of Mr. Henry Fowler, Colonial Secretary, across the unexplored portion of this Colony, and expressed a hope, at an early date, to forward a report thereof. From various circumstances that report has been delayed, but the delay has been productive of good, for, at my suggestion, there has been attached to the report of the expedition a short sketch of the history and resources of the Colony, and the publication now assumes the shape of as good a "hand-book" of British Honduras as can fairly be expected from the means at disposal. I did not hesitate to further the project by all means in my power, and I sanctioned the printing of the book at the public press, which again caused delay in its transmission. There is nothing stated in regard to the history of the Colony which cannot be vouched by public documents, and Mr. Fowler has expended much time and labour in the preparation of the work. I do myself the honour to transmit six copies of the publication.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

EXTRACT from a NARRATIVE of a Journey across the unexplored portion of BRITISH HONDURAS, with a short Sketch of the History and Resources of the Colony. By HENRY FOWLER, Colonial Secretary.

THE Colony is seemingly in process of some radical changes, which are familiar in the history of many other settlements; and a cursory sketch of the history of the Colony and its various interests may not be uninteresting here. Honduras was discovered in 1502 by Columbus, who landed on the island of Bonacca; and in 1518 Grijalva landed on the island of Cozumel, and named the country New Spain. In 1638 a few British subjects first inhabited Honduras, having been wrecked on the coast; and in 1642 the English took possession of the island of Ruatan. Campeachy was attacked and taken by a few English sailors in 1659. Logwood

BRITISH HONDURAS.

cutters settled in 1662 at Cape Catoche. The treaty of Madrid, 1667, stipulated that six months' notice should be given by either party in case of war, to give time to parties to remove their merchandise and effects. In July 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by treaty, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Art. vii.). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date, the population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day.

In 1675 the English were attacked by the Spaniards about Lake Triste, and 260 prisoners taken. They were marched to Mexico, where they ended their days in the mines. The English recaptured the town of Campeachy by assault in 1678, but the logwood cutters in their turn were again driven from the island of Triste in 1680. Slaves from the islands of Jamaica and Bermuda were introduced about the year 1700, and the coloured population soon afterwards exceeded the white. In 1718 the Spaniards made a descent from Peten upon the settlers, and erected fortifications in the north-west branch of the Belize river. They made no further move until 1754, when 1,500 of them were defeated at Labouring Creek, principally by slaves of the English, who fought with their masters. Commissioners for the government of Honduras were first appointed 31st July 1745. The treaty of Paris, 1763, required all fortifications in the Bay of Honduras to be demolished; the right of cutting logwood was recognised, but plantations or manufactures forbidden. The Spaniards immediately after signing the treaty drove the cutters from Rio Hondo, which called forth the disclaimer published in the London Gazette, 21st July 1764. The King in 1765 gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislation by public meetings and the election of magis-"trates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, I venture to think, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by or granted to a British settlement. Sir William Burnaby was sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, and they codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as Burnaby's laws. Lord Nelson, who was serving on the coast at the time, assisted in the arrangements, and was subsequently presented with an address by the inhabitants for the protection he afforded them against the Spaniards. From 1765 to 1779 there was no superintendent; magistrates alone governed the settlement.

In spite of the treaties of 1667, 1670, and 1763, the Spaniards suddenly and secretly attacked St. George's Cay on 15th September 1779, and robbed the settlers of all their property and effects, took them prisoners, and marched them to Merida and back to the coast, when they were shipped to Cuba, where they

were detained prisoners in dungeons until July 1782. The castle of Omoa was besieged and taken for this outrage in 1779, but the English were dislodged from the island of Ruatan and conveyed as prisoners to Havana in 1780. From 1779 to June 1784 the settlement was hardly in existence, almost everything having been destroyed by the Spaniards.

The treaty of peace at Versailles, 3rd September 1783 restored the settlement and allowed the right of cutting logwood between the Belize and Rio Hondo rivers, but the Baymen were still debarred from making plantations, and Spanish commissioners were to visit the settlement twice annually to see if the provisions of the treaty were fulfilled. This treaty apparently waived the rights secured by Article vii. of the treaty of 1670, for the sovereignty of the Spanish Crown is distinctly recognised, and in 1786 a superintendent was appointed on a memorial from the settlers.

On the 27th May 1784, Don Zevallez, Governor of Yucatan, "commissioned by the court of Spain to make a formal delivery "to the British nation of the lands allotted for the cutting of "logwood, delivered the same to the English Commissioners at "the mouth of the New River, agreeable to map and instructions "received from his sovereign. Having given over the boundaries "and placed the proper marks and trees on the land side as well "as executed every necessary formality for the purpose." On August 9th, 1784, a cargo of convicts from England were brought to the settlement for sale, but the ship was ordered away. Additional articles to the treaty of 1783 were made in 1786 at a convention held in London, whereby the right of cutting mahogany was formally granted, and the Mosquito Coast abandoned. The settlers from there joined the Belize settlement 1787. The next year an English and Spanish Commissioner endeavoured to discover the sources of the Belize and Sibun Rivers to mark the new limits; they were unsuccessful, but some of their marks exist at the present day, and refute recent claims made by Mexico. On August 2, 1787, the lots in the town of Belize were balloted for. In the following September a hurricane desolated the settlement, every house but one being destroyed, and many lives were lost. Colonel Despard introduced a new system of government in 1789 on the remonstrance of the Spanish Commissary dated 26th May 1789, that the existence of a body of magistrates was contrary to Article vii. of the treaty of 1786. The next year the home Government sent out a new superintendent, who immediately annulled Colonel Despard's system, and proclaimed, 12th April 1790, "the restoration of the ancient regulations of the settle-"ment, and re-establishment of the elective magistracy by the "voice of the people." In November 1791, 217 revolted negroes from San Domingo were landed at English Cay, but the settlers chartered a vessel and shipped them to Jamaica. From 1791 to 1796 the settlement was again solely governed by magistrates

BRITISH HONDURAS

In the latter part of 1796 Colonel Barrow was sent down as Superintendent on petition of the inhabitants for a superintendent and a military officer. He arrived with two commissions, one as superintendent and the other "to command His Majesty's "subjects armed or that were to be armed."

In consequence of the threatening attitude of the Spaniards, and no assistance being received from the home Government, and all means of defence prohibited, a solemn assembly was held on the 1st June, 1797, to decide the following proposition, viz.: "Whether this meeting do consider it most for the interest of the "community at large to continue to carry on defensive operations "for keeping possession of the settlement, or to determine upon "a general evacuation." It was determined by 14 votes only to hold the settlement at all hazards, and as warlike preparations in the neighbouring Spanish ports were continued, the inhabitants armed themselves and slaves with pikes and such other weapons as could be collected. Then came the memorable 10th September 1798, when "the Spaniards, with a flotilla of 32 vessels, 2,000 "troops and 500 seamen, under the command of Field Marshal "Arthur O'Niel, attacked the settlement at St. George's Cay. "They were repulsed, and the expedition entirely frustrated "through the gallant conduct of H.M.S. 'Merlin' and the "wonderful exertions of the settlers and their negro slaves, who "manned the gunboats." (Earl Balcarres' Despatch, 7th Nov. 1798.) The gunboats were improvised for the occasion out of local sloops and logwood flats, and the slaves who so gallantly fought for their masters rejected the offer of freedom promised them by Marshal O'Niel if they deserted. The inhabitants, previous to accepting battle from the Spaniards, set fire to every house and establishment on the Cay, to prevent their falling into the hands of their enemies in case of disaster, and placed everything they had on board their own boats. The battle lasted two days.

There was another fight with the Spaniards, called the "Poke and do Boy" war, which lives in the memory of the inhabitants, but it is difficult to trace which one is meant; some say it occurred in the streets of Belize, others assert it was a fight which occurred in the bay between Omoa and Belize, and some allege it refers to the Labouring Creek affair or the last battle of St. George's Cay. The name has two origins, "pork and dough-boy" and "poke and do-boy." The former is supposed to be a nickname given to the labourers from their living chiefly on pork and flour the recognised rations of the present day. The other to the fact that the people armed themselves with pikes and lances made out of the hard prickly palm called the warree or pork palm, and were cheered on by their commanders with the battle cry of "poke and do for them boys." Few colonies can boast a history so unique or thrilling, or give such a proof of the dogged tenacity of the English race.

The attractions, however, were great, for privateering was a lucrative business, and the buccaneers were always supposed to be well off. There are the usual stories of buried treasure and sunken galleons loaded with precious metals, and an old empty iron chest is still visible at the bottom of the sea near one of the Cays. In 1779 a capture of $3,000,000 and 25 quintals of quicksilver, was one of the prizes of our operations. The trade was important, for Sir Thomas Lynch in his despatch of 10th March 1671, to the Lords of the Council states, the trade of Honduras "employs one hundred sail annually, and brings in more to His "Majesty's Customs and the nation's trade, than any colony the "king hath." The Board of Trade in a memorial to His Majesty George I. (1817) says, "And that your Majesty may be more fully "apprised of the importance or this trade, the same will be "effectually demonstrated by the following account of the quantity "of logwood imported since the war, which cannot be computed "at less than 60,000*l.* per annum, though the price is at present "reduced from 40*l.* to 16*l.* per ton; whereas before your Majesty's "subjects were settled, it was worth 100*l.* per ton." And in 1825 the trade of Belize increased the revenue of the British Government by 74,144*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* from the mere importation into the United Kingdom of mahogany, cedar, logwood, and tortoiseshell.

Most of the ancient records of the Colony prior to 1765, were lost in the invasion of 1779, and perhaps it is as well they were, for the early doings of the settlers are said to have consisted of little else than piratical acts and buccaneering forays. The peace of 1670 compelled them to cut logwood themselves, instead of stealing it from others. Some of the records were carried to Jamaica, and brought back in 1784, but they were lost in the hurricane of 1787. Many were supposed to have gone down in the brig "Triumvirate," which capsized at St. George's Cay. A few decayed documents about 1789 are all that remain up to the present century.

The name of Belize is supposed to be a Spanish corruption of Wallace, the name of a Scotchman, a noted pirate, or it may be derived from the French word "balise," a beacon, which might have been erected to warn mariners of the abode of the pirates.

Since the invasion of 1798 the English have held the territory by right of conquest in addition to claims of occupation. Forts have been erected for defence, and troops stationed to guard them. The English have remained in undisturbed possession ever since; and consuls have been duly accredited to the Colony by most foreign countries, including Spain, Central America, Mexico, and surrounding republics, which sufficiently recognise our rights to the soil, although it may be an interesting difficulty to define the exact period when the sovereignty of the country passed from the Crown of Spain to that of England. The treaty with Guatemala of 15th April 1859, defines our principal boundary, and our

BRITISH HONDURAS.

treaty with Mexico in 1816 and our recognition in 1852, would not naturally comprise other limits of territory than those acknowledged by us. Having occupied the territory for over 200 years, and held it since the beginning of the present century, the title appears good, for it seems difficult to produce a better one; yet there is no doubt we are regarded as interlopers by surrounding republics, and Mexico now advances fancy claims as residuary legatee of the Spanish Crown in these parts, and ignorance of the traditions of the British Empire causes many to look upon us as doubtful permanent settlers. The abandonment of the Mosquito Coast, 1859, the surrender of the Bay Islands (1860), and the present grants of land containing the proviso that "no compensation is to be claimed in consequence of any treaty with the "Spanish or other Government, or from any other cause arising "out of any abandonment of territory," however, often gives rise to the question of the ultimate destiny of the Colony, but as British Honduras has always been specially exempted in past transactions, as in the case of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1859, it may fairly be presumed it will be so in future.

Fort George was built in 1803, and the foundation stone of St. John's Church was laid on 20th July 1812. Government House was built in 1814, and a free school founded 1816. The inhabitants opposed the landing of 127 revolted negroes from Barbadoes in 1817. The same year a militia force over 1,000 strong was raised, and designated by royal orders "The Prince Regent's Royal Honduras Militia." A new Court House was built in 1819, which was demolished last year, when the native timber used in its construction was found to be as good as on the day when it was put up. In 1819 the Criminal Court was established by Act of Parliament, and Her Majesty's Superintendent was appointed for the first time under Royal Letters Patent. A public hospital was instituted in 1820, and a lighthouse erected in 1821. The king of the Mosquito nation was crowned in Belize on 23rd April 1823. Another hurricane visited the settlement in 1813, and St. George's Cay was submerged by a tidal wave in 1827.

The government was carried on according to ancient custom, but the invariable constitutional questions arose between the executive and legislative branches. In 1830 notice was given that all subjects for debate must be submitted to and approved by the Superintendent before being advertised for public discussion, and in 1832 His Majesty declined to continue to recognise the claim of the inhabitants to elect magistrates, but directed they should be nominated and appointed by the Executive Government. An executive Council was appointed in 1839 to assist the Superintendent. In 1850 the inhabitants petitioned for a change in the system of government. The Act of 1853 reformed and amended the ancient system of government, and it constituted a legislative body, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members.

The settlement gradually grew into a recognised Colony, and was so officially proclaimed on 12th May 1862, when a lieutenant-governor was appointed in lieu of a superintendent. The reformed constitution, after the usual variety of struggles incident to mixed communities, became unworkable, and the ancient institutions of the settlement drifted into the form of a Crown Colony Government, the old elective assembly committing suicide in 1870.

The town of Belize has been subject to several disastrous fires; in 1819 the whole of Eboe town, a part of Belize, was consumed. In 1854 the South side of Belize was burnt down, and in 1856 the North side suffered the same fate, and in 1863 South street was devastated by fire. Some of the fires were due to incendiarism, but the hanging of some incendiaries and the public flogging of another in 1858 from the Court House to St. John's Church and back again, with the gradual substitution of iron for shingle roofs, has averted this evil in later years.

The troubles which commenced in Yucatan in 1847, between the Yucatecans and Indians, became a source of anxiety and much concern to the settlement. Our course of neutrality between the contending parties satisfied neither of them, and the Yucatecans taking refuge in our territory on being driven out of the Southern part of Yucatan, raids and reprisals were frequent between them and the Santa Cruz Indians, who had never acknowledged the Spanish yoke. The former were indignant to think we should recognise the latter so far as to treat them as independent, and the latter were suspicious at our sheltering their enemies. The Indians have since become more friendly, as they depend upon us for supplies, but the Yucatecans cannot get rid of the impression that if it was not for us, they would have a free field to blockade the Indians, who would be deprived in a great measure of the means of obtaining arms and gunpowder. On the one hand the Yucatecans have offered to increase our territory if we aided them to recover possession of theirs, whilst the Indians offered to put themselves and their country under the protection of our flag if we formally recognise their independence. The Peninsula of Yucatan is one of the richest parts of the globe, but civil wars and diseases have reduced its population from 404,635 in 1841, to 256,381 in 1854, and it is supposed a further decrease has taken place since.

The town of Bacalar, situated on the shores of a lake, is about 20 miles from our northern frontier, it has a population of over 6,000, and has been the scene of the most dreadful atrocities. It was first taken by the Indians in 1848, who permitted the Spaniards to depart without injury or insult, and nothing occurred to show any resolution on the part of the Indians to extirpate or banish them from the country, and the Indians were most friendly

BRITISH HONDURAS.

with us. They shot a sergeant and flogged six soldiers of their own forces on a representation that they had committed an outrage across our borders.

The Yucatecans fled to our territory according as the varying fortunes of war necessitated, and great alarm prevailed in the Colony. Reinforcements from Jamaica were applied for, and the public voted 5,000*l.* for defensive purposes. Mr. Cox was sent on a mission in May, 1848, and he described the streets as strewn with dead bodies. Collisions now became frequent between the contending parties, and our northern border became a rallying point for both sides. After a fight at Chac Creek, on the Hondo, in January 1849, Major O'Connor reported seeing roasted bodies, and in the following March he visited Bacalar to endeavour to make peace. In May, however, an expedition from Merida arrived by sea at the River Hondo, and the Spaniards succeeded in retaking Bacalar from the Indians. In July 1849 the Indians recaptured the town and killed Colonel Rosado, the Spanish Commandant, but the fort was held by the Mexican troops, and the contest degenerated into a war of races, with horrible cruelties by both parties.

Mr. Faber and Captain Meihan were appointed magistrates for the Northern District in October 1849. The Superintendent acted as mediator between the contending parties, but the Indians murdered their chief for having, as they alleged, allowed himself to be deceived by the English. The Santa Cruz Indians evinced afterwards no friendly disposition towards us. They declined to accept our mediation in 1853. The Chichanja Indians invaded our territory in 1856 at the instigation, it is alleged, of the Mexicans. They seized Messrs. Young and Toledo's mahogany works, on Blue Creek, in charge of Mr. Panting, and the firm were compelled to pay ransom or rent to them. The Santa Cruz Indians followed suit next year, and seized the cattle and trucks of the same firm belonging to some works on Mexican lands, when they had to be ransomed, although Messrs. Young and Toledo were paying a large subsidy to the Mexican Government for the privilege of cutting timber on their side. Mr. Rhys went on to Bacalar with reference to these proceedings. Steps were taken to prevent armed parties crossing our frontier, and the Santa Cruz Indians came and apologised to Mr. Panting on the spot where they had committed the outrage on the English. On 21st February 1858 the Indians recaptured Bacalar, and the war of races broke out again with ferocious intensity, and massacres were the order of the day, and the worst atrocities were committed. Appeals were made to the Superintendent to intercede on behalf of the Spanish prisoners in the hands of the Indians, and a mission was despatched to the Chief of the Indians to try and save the lives of the prisoners. A ransom of 4,000 dols. and some gunpowder had been offered by a Mr. Blake, who had left

three persons as hostages for the amount. The following is a brief account of the mission, which was composed of Captain Anderson and another, and they were joined by Mr. Blake, with the ransom of 4,000 dols., but no powder.

The party landed at Bacalar on 1st March, and immediate inquiry was made if the ransom and gunpowder had been brought. The absence of the latter caused disappointment. Their reception was cold. The Englishmen were, however, allowed to visit all parts of the town; in the side streets, bodies stark-naked, male and female, in every stage of decomposition, were noticed being devoured by dogs and Johnny Crows, the different degrees of decay showing a succession of massacres. The party was invited to visit the prisoners. The Superintendent's letter interceding for the prisoners was given to the Chief, and on asking for a reply it was stated the letter was under the consideration of the Santa Cruz. That night, as usual, all the available Indians in Bacalar assembled in front of the house where the Santa Cruz is kept. The boy-attendants or sentries on the idol called Angels were in front of it, and the drums and bugles sounded at recurring parts of the song. The Chief was inside with the image and the Angels. The subordinate chiefs and soldiers knelt outside, and did not rise until the service was over, when they crossed themselves, and rubbed their foreheads in the dust. About 11 o'clock the Indians were heard running backwards and forward, and an order was given to bring out the prisoners, who were placed in a line before the Santa Cruz, and a large body of soldiers were placed over them. They all knelt down in the road. There were about 40 female prisoners with one arm tied to the side, and 12 or 14 men pinioned by both. All were calm except the children, although it was known Santa Cruz was pronouncing their doom. A squeaking whistling noise was heard emanating from the oracle, and when it ceased it was announced that the Santa Cruz demanded a higher ransom for the prisoners. $7,000 was guaranteed by Mr. Blake. He was asked if he had the amount with him; the answer was no, but he could forward it, but the Santa Cruz scouted the idea, as they had already been deceived about the powder. The Santa Cruz then ordered the prisoners to be killed, when Captain Anderson interfered, and called attention to the Superintendent's remonstrance. The Chief was inside with the Santa Cruz, and the matter was referred to him. There was a panic, but the Chief sent word that the Englishmen need not be afraid; Santa Cruz appeared to be waiting for inspiration; the oracle proposed to give the English Governor the prisoners if he would give up Perdomo, the Ex-Commandant of Bacalar, who was resident in Corosal. The prisoners begged compliance with the request, but it was impossible. Santa Cruz then said, matters must take their course. Some of the women and children were separated from the rest, amongst whom was a young Spanish girl well known in high circles; a procession was then formed, and marched off to

BRITISH HONDURAS.

the east gate; first came a strong body of troops, then alternately in Indian file a male prisoner, and his executioner, who drove him on with his macheat (sword), holding him by the rope; next came the women, 35 in number, driven and held in a similar manner, then another body of soldiers closed the rear. The Englishmen were not allowed to follow. The procession halted under a clump of trees about 150 yards off, and soon the butchery commenced; shrieks were heard, but in ten minutes all was over. The troops returned shortly afterwards. The Chief then sent word he hoped the Superintendent would not be offended by what had happened, but the Spaniards always treated their prisoners in that way. The Indians merely followed an example set them, but the English need not be afraid. Later on in the stillness of the night the shrieks of the other prisoners who had been separated were heard until the work of horror or death was done. The female children alone were saved, with the exception of one boy who is now a merchant in Belize, and tells me he had to teach the sons of some of the chiefs. Before obtaining his release by ransom he was taken before the Santa Cruz, and was secretly warned to say he wished to remain among the Indians, if he was asked his choice, although of course it was contrary to fact. Doing as he was advised, the oracle decreed him a flogging for telling a lie, for the Santa Cruz was not to be deceived; it knew everything, and had divined the boy was speaking untruths, the boy need not to be killed, but was to be allowed to live, as an example of the divinity of the Santa Cruz. The next day when the Chief called on the party his manner was embarrassed and cold, there was a feeling of constraint between all, he had no reply to the Superintendent's letter, and the English might leave Bacalar when they pleased. All the Indians turned out as they embarked, but there was an awkwardness and silence on all sides. The ransom was returned to Mr. Blake, with the exception of $700 of goods, for which 14 goats were tendered. The Santa Cruz is mixed up with some Catholic rites, but retains the leading characteristics of the god who was best propitiated by placing bleeding human hearts within his lips. The Santa Cruz or holy cross was found in the country by the first discoverers, and it proved an easy means to convert its traditions to those of Christianity, of which the same emblem is the chief symbol. The Santa Cruz is always consulted at night time, and the oracle used to be worked by a little ventriloquism, but now one of the chiefs acts as high priest, and whistles the decrees of the divinity.

The return of the party and account of the massacres, with the additional information that the Indians would shortly cross the Hondo, led to scenes of terror, especially as troops had been withdrawn from the north for the protection of Belize in the scare of 1848, when it was anticipated the Indians would sack Belize. Reinforcements were however sent for, and promptly arrived the following month, and troops were again stationed in the Northern District, at Cocos and along the Hondo. This

display of force had its effect, and the Santa Cruz Indians have endeavoured to renew friendly relations with the settlement.

In 1861 two officers (a West India and a sapper) were despatched to Bacalar, who were treated with the greatest indignity. The public account of the mission is that they were well received at first, and provided with lodgings, but unfortunately whilst at tiffin, two of the chiefs happened to pass the place where the officers were lodged, when they were invited in to join them. The officers were eating *pâté diable*, and they thought it was a good joke to give the Indians some, and they had a good laugh when it burnt them and brought tears to their eyes. The chiefs said nothing, but in the night sent for them when they were enjoying a night's carouse, and all were more or less drunk. They stripped the officers, made them dance, and crushed chili peppers were ladled into their mouths; they were spat on, and treated most ignominiously, the chiefs remarking it was now their turn to laugh. They were exhibited before the Santa Cruz, and it was the promise of 50 barrels of gunpowder by the interpreter *sub rosa* that alone saved their lives. A trader who went up afterwards to ransom a friend, foolishly threatened to report the chief to the Superintendent at Belize, when Benancio Puc, in a drunken fit of frenzy, ordered the prisoner out and had him executed in the presence of his friend, and catching the blood of the victim in a calabash quaffed it off, and told the trader that was his answer to his threats. This brutal barbarian was subsequently murdered by his own people in 1864, since which time but few such scenes have been enacted. After his death the Yucatecans offered an amnesty to the Indians, but no answer was returned to the proposal. The Santa Cruz has since decreed it is good to trade with the English, and the Indians offered to make a treaty on behalf of the Maya Government, but no notice was taken of the proposition. In 1870, when the Ycaiché Indians under Canul marched to Corosal, it was the sight of some Santa Cruz Indians about the streets of Corosal that frightened them away, for in 1863 the Santa Cruz Indians had given these Indians a terrible punishment. The account of the slaughter and human sacrifices made on that occasion is appalling. The sight of the Santa Cruz Indians saved the town from being sacked by Canul. Two or three days afterwards 500 Santa Cruz Indians were on the frontier, ready to protect the place, and 5,000 were promised if required. Fifty came armed to Corosal, but troops arrived from Belize in the meantime, and the services of the Indians were dispensed with, in fact they were told to lay down their arms, and were very injudiciously treated. It is alleged the sight of an Indian, friend or foe, was quite enough to set up a general chattering of teeth at that time. The Indians complain at the present day of the proceeding. It is supposed that if a supply of powder had been presented to them instead of the treatment they received, none of the later troubles with Canul and the Ycaiché Indians would have been experienced.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Next year, 1880, is looked forward to with some concern, for the Santa Cruz has decreed a death struggle between the contending races in Yucatan, in accordance with the period fixed by an ancient prophecy. The present state of Yucatan, and the curious coincidence of the time being the same as given to the Indians by the Yucatan General, Canton, for their decisive answer to his propositions for peace recently made by him, cause many to anticipate another general carnage. The letters of Don Canton were burnt, and he was invited to negociate at Santa Cruz instead of at Corosal, but he wisely declined the invitation. They intimate they believe in nothing coming from the west, but a promise from the quarter of the rising sun they have some faith in, and may listen to a proposition if guaranteed by the English.

The Chichinja Indians, under the influence of the Yucatecan Government, who sent Commissioners to Belize in 1862 to treat with these Indians as well as with the Santa Cruz, if possible, but the latter refused all overtures, began to trouble us about 1864, and commenced demanding and collecting rent in the territory which is claimed by both Mexico and ourselves. This territorial dispute arises from the question as to the source of the Rio Hondo. We claim the Blue Creek branch to the north, and Mexico claims the Booth branch to the south, and the boundary as marked on the old Spanish maps, prior to the treaty of 1786. The intervening lands constitute the disputed territory, but English jurisdiction has been invariably exercised over it, for grants to cut wood on these lands were issued as far back as 1817 by the Superintendent, and a chief named Ek commanded both sides of the frontier under a commission from the respective authorities of each side in 1859. Major Wray, in 1860, opened out the boundary in the neighbourhood of Garbutt's Falls, under the convention of 1859 with Guatemala, and Lieutenant Abbs, R.N., in 1867, cut a line from the Hondo to the Guatemala frontier, so that the boundaries are well known. The conventions of 1786 and 1859 sufficiently indicate the limits of the colony, and as Colonel Macdonald, who visited the Hondo in 1837, states, there can hardly be a question but that Blue Creek is the true Hondo, and it has always been treated so by us.

Marcos Canul suceeded to the command of the Chichinja Indians in 1864, on the death of Chief Zuc. He was formerly employed as a mahogany cutter, was tried for murder, and was the most active agent in the affair of San Roman, against the Santa Cruz Indians. These Indians, after their defeat in 1863, retired from Chichinja to a place called Ycaiché, and are subsequently known as the Ycaiché Indians. In 1866, on a refusal of a mahogany cutter to pay up some rent, a raid was made on the Qualm Hill mahogany work, on the Rio Bravo, an intervening creek between Blue and Booth's rivers, and the manager, two European visitors interested in the work who happened to be there at the time, some 60 labourers, and cattle were carried off to Ycaiché, and a ransom of

$12,000 demanded. Mr. von Ohlafen volunteered his services, and he was appointed a special commissioner to negociate for their release, and ultimately successfully effected it for $3,000; why Canul did not seize him with his three constables and $3,000, when he waited on the frontier for the exchange, can only, I think, be attributed to the tactical skill and pluck of the commissioner. The following year Canul took possession of Mr. Phillips's Bank in the same territory, and sent the manager to Belize for some money. An expedition was organised to drive out Canul. The regulars were marched up country, but happening to accidentally meet a party, which afterwards proved to be 23 Indians, a panic ensued on our side, and a disgraceful stampede took place. The subject is too painful to handle. The volunteers who had gone up the Hondo to cut off the retreat of the Indians, were ordered to fall back on Belize to assist in protection of the capital, now thought to be menaced by the Indians. Some further operations were undertaken afterwards, but they are locally described to have been of the *bombastes furioso* type. In consequence of these exhibitions, in 1870 Canul coolly marched along inside our northern frontier as far as Corosal, when seeing the few Santa Cruz Indians about, as before mentioned, he hastily departed, but in 1872 he boldly attacked Orange Walk, although a detachment of troops was stationed there. The result restored the prestige of our arms, and Canul died from wounds he received during the attack. A very plucky diversion was made by some American settlers in the rear of the Indians during their assault on the barracks, which doubtless decided the fortunes of the day.

Since this time peace and trade have reigned along our borders, but rumours must necessarily be ever rife with such combustible material around us. It is only when a chief more drunken or plucky than in general, as in the case of Puc and Canul, commands, that these disturbances occur, and it is not surprising that most people have a wholesome terror when the cry of Indian is raised, after the atrocities that have been committed in the neighbourhood of the Colony. The capital has been subject to several scares, boat loads of refugees from the north have been seen streaming into the place, and when the prospect of a raid has been nearer home, people have hurried down to the wharves with bundles of jewellery or their precious belongings to go on board the shipping in the harbour, and the Government barge has been kept on duty day and night more than once. One evening during the excitement of 1867, a few bullocks more sportively inclined than usual in the bush on the outskirts of the town, and an old African firing off his gun at a supposed Indian caused a cry of "Indian" to be raised, and martial addresses were made pointing out the "bloody work that was probable before the night was over, and if the leaders fell their deaths should be avenged." But Belize itself will always be well defended, for the people have ever proved themselves ready and willing for any emergency,

BRITISH HONDURAS.

and as for the disputed frontier there are some, I know, who would undertake an annual perambulation of the boundary with 50 armed men, for the Ycaiché Indians are neither numerous nor ferocious, and they are only brutal when intoxicated and have a helpless victim at their mercy. Fire-water, the curse to the native as well as others, arouses the latent passions of the Indians, and calls forth their worst animal propensities. Powder and ball are kind emissaries compared to a supply of rum or aniseed. A sober Indian is a gentleman, a drunken one a savage. The best cure to my mind to counteract such raids or disturbances within our frontier, is to cut a good trunk road from the Cay on the Old River to Orange Walk on the New River, and then on to Corosal. And why so simple a remedy has not been tried before, with plenty of money lying idle in the treasury, seems to me incomprehensible. This, with a little judicious handling of the opposing elements, would, it is thought by some, secure our frontier intact. The Indians had a high opinion of the English when they saw we could hold our own against the Spaniards who conquered them, but since they drove them out and the French retired from the country, and our later operations hardly bearing comparison with former exploits, we are apparently held in light repute.

There is no doubt our quiet defensive policy, and apparent dogged indifference without reprisals, stuns the oriental imagination and susceptibilities of Indians, as well as others who are inflated with ideas of their own powers, and whilst such a policy may be as galling to them as to the more active on our side, it must win in the long run, and as long as we are able to hold our own.

Such is a running outline of the history of the Colony, to which, however, must be added a few embarrassments that occurred from some filibustering expeditions that were wrecked on or visited our coasts, and a few rumours or threats of invasion from some who are perhaps a little more civilized than the Indians.

The resources and capabilities of the place are as follow:—

The timber resources consist chiefly of logwood, mahogany, cedar, and other hard woods. The price of logwood was first 100*l.* per ton, then 40*l.*, afterwards in 1825 16*l.*, and now it is about 7*l.* Mahogany in the same way was first 2*s.* 6*d.* per foot, then 1*s.*, now it is only 4½*d.*; and at the same time it is not cut so easily as formerly. Truck paths now run eight miles, whereas in early days a gang was put on board a vessel which was sent to anchor at the mouth of one of the rivers, whilst the gang went ashore, cut the wood, and shipped it; 30 days' lay being generally allowed for every 100 tons of wood. No cattle were necessary to haul the logs, the timber was found on the river banks, manufactured, skidded into the water, and towed off to the ship. The average price now of cutting on an estate is 2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.* per ton for log-

wood, and 2½*d.* per foot for mahogany delivered ready for shipment. In the case of logwood, the difference between cost and market price, viz., 2*l.* and 7*l.*, covers the expenses of shipment, freight, and charges, and leaves a margin for profits, whereas the difference in the cost and price of mahogany barely, if actually, covers expenses. The prices for growing or standing timber in bush, when sold to cutters either off private or Crown lands, are as follows:—

Mahogany or cedar, 16*s.* per tree; logwood or rosewood, 8*s.* per ton; sapodilla, Santa Maria, 8*s.* per tree.

Twenty years ago the average annual receipts of the Crown for timber were $3,924, and now they only average $890.

The export of wood has been more or less uniform. From 1713 to 1716 the average shipment of logwood was 3,741 tons, about a hundred years later (1824) 4,390 tons, in 1874 9,213 tons, and last year 13,704 tons. The mahogany exported in 1824 was five and half million feet, in 1874 it was over six millions, and between these years as much as ten millions have been shipped in one year, and last year 3,146,582 feet.

It is a subject for wonder how the supply has been kept up during such a long period, but the solution is in the fact that the extent of country is large, and the lands of the Colony, during more recent years, have become absorbed in the hands of two or three parties, who in some cases possess estates of over a million acres. These lands have been generally acquired with the sole view to timber operations, and their value was measured according to the quantity supposed to be growing on them. A natural policy of conservancy has for a long period been followed, settling has been discouraged, and no alienation of land has been permitted by the larger proprietors, and a very strict trespass law is to be found on the Statute Book. A system of rotation in working an estate is pursued; and to cut annually one or two million feet of mahogany and two or three thousand tons of logwood, the average operations of the several proprietors, necessarily requires a large extent of country. A mahogany work is opened in one part of the estate, and all trees squaring 18 inches and upwards are felled, the rest are left; the same work is re-opened in fifteen or twenty-five years time, when trees previously left will be found to have grown the requisite size. Mahogany trees shed annually plenty of seeds, so that a natural supply is kept up. The same system is applied to logwood with better advantage, as logwood can be re-cut in 8 or 10 years, instead of 15 to 25. It is easier handled, and does not require the capital to cut that mahogany does. A common impression prevails that the woods are scarcer than they really are. The low price of mahogany checks the production, and if a remunerative price as in the case of logwood could be obtained, I believe the export would rise, and be maintained to the extent it has been in the past, but of course a gradual diminution is taking place. The

BRITISH HONDURAS.

supply of logwood if not inexhaustible could easily be made so, and no difficulty need be apprehended in keeping up an annual export of 8 or 10,000 tons, but I fear the present export of 14 and 15,000 cannot be maintained for many years unless some precautions are taken to re-plant. It grows freely in most parts of the Colony, and a few seeds scattered, or a few trees planted in any swamp or suitable ground where no logwood exists are all that is required to secure every eight or ten years a recurring crop of logwood. It is generally thought the price of mahogany will be permanently depreciated by competition from other woods and productions from other countries, the substitution of iron and steel in shipbuilding, fancy and antique furniture in place of the solid mahogany under which our fathers loved to place their legs; besides railways do not absorb in renewals and repairs what they did in the lively days of construction. There does not appear the same likelihood of interference with respect to the demand for logwood, and the only apparent fear is over production, or of some wretched chemist inventing a substitute for the dye extracted from the wood.

The trading interest commenced in the early days, and sprang into importance at the beginning of the present century. Belize became a depôt for English goods, which were distributed to the surrounding countries. Affording security amid so much insecurity, merchandise was deposited in the port, awaiting the remittance before delivery, or delivered in such quantities as would not involve too great a risk. As more direct communications were opened up between our neighbours and the old country a good deal of trade fell off, but the transit trade is still considerable, and many buyers yet resort to Belize for their stock of goods. The average value of imports for home consumption is 150,000*l.*, and in transit 45,000*l.* The estimated value of exports, produce of the Colony, is 120,000*l.*; of other countries, in transit, 50,000*l.* If the favourable position of Belize had been more intelligently realised by all concerned, I think our trade might have been greater than it is. Jealousy and hostile tariff restrictions have to be contended against, and any measure jeopardising this interest cannot fail to have an unfortunate effect in the prospects of the Colony. This interest has yielded by far the best fruits in more recent times, for it is easy to specify wealthy representatives of this class, whereas it would be difficult to point to any one who has made a fortune out of wood-cutting in late years. This result has induced many to go into the business, competition has reduced prices, consequently profits have become less and more widely distributed, so that the rapid accumulations of former years will prove a difficulty to realise now, and I fear, in course of time, it will become a question with some whether they will be able to hold their own, especially in view of American competition.

The cultivation of the sugar cane was introduced into the Colony by the Yucatecans in 1848, who crossed the border on being expelled by the Indians from the southern part of Yucatan.

The success they achieved was remarkable, and the northern district of the Colony became the scene of many small flourishing plantations. The American civil war caused some southern planters to become settlers in the Colony, and the attention of proprietors in the Colony was drawn to the subject, when a large amount of capital was embarked in sugar plantations. Twelve large estates were started, involving an outlay of capital of about 300,000*l.* Only five are now in working order, and two of the largest of these are in the market. Anyone, however, acquainted with the history of these estates, must feel satisfied that the collapse in many instances was due more or less to inexperienced management, reckless expenditure, with heavy outlay to introduce proper labour. A mistake also appears to have been committed by the larger estates in making concrete sugar, which has only a limited market, instead of muscovado, which is saleable anywhere. Reliable experience proves that sugar can be easily produced here for about 10*l.* per ton, and at the rate of two tons to the acre. One planter informs me that on actual experiment one acre of picked canes yielded four tons of drained sugar. No artificial manure is required, nor any drainage beyond mere surface drains, and hardly any cultivation beyond a couple of ploughings to clean the canes. Canes ratoon for 10 or 12 years without deterioration, and instances have been quoted to me of some cut for this year's crop that have been ratooning for 20 years. From all I have been able to gather on the subject I think it can be demonstrated that well-managed estates in the Colony have been able to pay their way, and persons judiciously managing their own estates have been able to make a good general living out of them, besides adding to a reserve fund or reimbursing a fair portion of the purchase money within a very short time, even under recent adverse circumstances affecting the sugar trade. Whether estates can be continued on with the same results will of course depend upon the state of the market and the steps taken to counteract the operation of the sugar bounties, without which it is considered by those most competent to judge it will be impossible to grow sugar to a profit in any British Colony.

A practical illustration of what has been done is the American settlement at Toledo, in the southern part of the Colony. A few families settled in the virgin forest with little or no capital, and have now over 240 acres in cane cultivation. In nine years they have managed to establish comfortable homesteads, and are satisfied with their prospects. Undaunted courage and perseverance were exercised to overcome the first difficulties, but now that such a little oasis has been made in the woods, and the surrounding lands can be acquired on easy terms, it is hoped the example may be followed by others, and the settlement prosper. The principal settler informs me that supplying the local market with their sugar at an average of five cents per lb. pays very well, but if forced to ship he doubts if any profit can be realised. New

BRITISH HONDURAS.

settlers need not rely on sugar alone when the cultivation of other products promises better results.

The remaining interest to be sketched is that of the settlers or squatters. Planting was probibited in the earlier days, and has since been discouraged in the interest of forest preservation, and fear of its interference with the supply of labour, besides which, plantations restrict the free run of cattle. No tenure of land has been allowed beyond mere tenancy at will, except in a few cases of settlers, who, after many obstacles, have obtained grants from the Crown. This interest, except in sugar cultivation, is represented by small patches of corn, rice, plantains, cocoanuts, and fruits, dotted along the river banks or the coast line, or on the Cays, which produce sufficient for individual consumption, and any surplus finds its way to Belize or rots on the ground. It is estimated there are 5,000 or 6,000 settlers in the Colony, yet I cannot ascertain that there are more than about 250 who have any title to their holdings beyond a squatting possession or mere tenancy at will. In 1837 some grants were issued, selling land at 1*l.* per acre, and on the 4th November 1842 an Order in Council enacted "that all "persons having located upon mahogany and logwood works "previous to those works being granted by the Crown to indi- "viduals shall be permitted to enjoy and possess such plantations "in fee, and also the right of such pasturage as they have hereto "held, and that all persons having located or locating after the "issue of such grants must obtain the permission of the proprie- "tors. It, moreover, being incumbent on all holders of plan- "tations to have them properly fenced, otherwise they will be "debarred from recourse at law for any loss they may sustain by "the intrusion of cattle." Any interpretation, however, that may be put on this Act may perhaps be superseded by the operation of the Land Titles Act passed in 1861. From a return I find that only about 50 grants have been issued by the Crown for plantations since the Crown lands have been dealt with under statute (1872). The value of land is really nominal; Crown leases of 99 years for square miles of good land at the annual rent of one to five dollars are still running; and an ordinary mahogany work, three by eight miles, is only valued according to the wood on it, and prices for such blocks of land range from 20*l.* to 200*l.*; yet a settler has been unable to purchase a single acre for his own cultivation, except from the Crown, under many difficulties disgusting him with the process. Money rents are exacted where possible by proprietors, with the continued threat of eviction in case of default, and from $5 a year is generally the sum demanded for a plantation. In the annual report on Crown lands for 1875 laid before the Legislature it is stated, "There are numerous squatters on the "Crown lands. I found that a number of these people had settled "on and near the banks of Mullins river, and another community "on those of Monkey river, to whom I have given immunity till "the end of the year, and I will proceed shortly to lodge infor-

"mations against them. It is probable that similar settlements "exist at the rivers Moho and Tomash, which should be rooted "out." Wherever I have been in the Colony I have been met with but one cry from these poor people, viz., a prayer for protection or a piece of land of their own; and when it is remembered that they are chiefly the representatives or descendants of those who fought so gallantly for their country, and in the face of former recognitions of their existence it appears to me a crying shame that they should be ousted from their homesteads, such as they are, or be unable to obtain a few acres of the land for which they or their ancestors risked or lost their lives. Hitherto square miles could be granted by the Crown for mere nominal rates, yet before the new land law a squatter who occupied a few acres of land for purpose of cultivation must be rooted out, or pay 5*s.* per acre and costs of survey, which ranges from $10 to $50, according to distance and actual expenses, with every obstruction thrown in his way before he could obtain his grant. Many discharged soldiers from the West India Regiments and others were located by the Government on some of the rivers. They never received any grants, and the lands in many instances belonged to others, or it has been alienated over their heads by means of the Act before alluded to, and they too naturally cry for consideration on being disturbed in their holdings.

Every obstacle being thrown in the way of settlement, it is not surprising to find the cultivation of the soil in the condition it is, and squatters as they are. A settler has no interest in his home, his house is a mere bush tenement scarcely fit for habitation, from which, such as it is, he is liable to be ejected any moment on the mere caprice of the owner of the soil. If he improves the place he knows he is only improving another man's property, and away from all contact with or example of any higher form of civilisation, he degenerates into a being living from hand to mouth, which is easily accomplished here, through the fertility of the soil, by about 20 days' work in a year, and is ready to move at any time on pressure for rent or rumours of Indians. He becomes stigmatised as an idle, worthless nuisance, doing no good for himself nor for the Colony. The settler who has his own allotment has no inducement to cultivate more than is necessary for his own consumption, for there is no market for his surplus produce, so that beyond a sense of security and a little more labour, perhaps, expended in improving his dwelling, he is really in no better position than his neighbours. Doubtless Satan generally finds something for idle hands to do, and a few cattle or some logwood may be occasionally lifted. I am aware the existence led by these settlers is a natural and dear one to the African, and to him such a house is as much a paradise as a Belgravian mansion is to the rich. It may be questionable whether any other conditions would lead to a different result. But I think it is worth while to try the experiment, for under the present system no permanent improvements are effected, and the settlers, scattered along river banks,

BRITISH HONDURAS

where they are seldom, if ever, visited except by the collector or agent, bid fair, I fear, to lose any remnants of civilisation they may have once possessed. They are out of reach of Government or missionary influence, and "obeah and duppies," I find, are as much thought of among them as any form of Christianity. The contrast of the Crown offering to sell land at 4*s.* an acre, and a proprietor charging for a plot a yearly rental of 5 dollars and upwards, with right of eviction at any time, seems undesirable in a mixed community. Doubtless, had the Crown the same available lands, the settlers, although ignorant, as they may be, would naturally resort to lands which they could purchase as freehold for less than what they pay annually as rent to other proprietors. In justice to the larger proprietors it is only fair to add that they seldom proceed to extremes, but the mischief is done by the agent they employ, from the power they hold over the tenants; and until people who desire them can obtain freeholds in the Colony it will be a long time before any healthy or permanent settlement is effected, which on many grounds appears so desirable, considering the peculiar position of the Colony and its surroundings.

The population of the Colony needs to be described. The Europeans or whites (principally Scotch) are birds of passage, business or duty calling them here, and but very few entertain the thought of making permanent homes in the Colony. The American settlers are the exception.

The Belize Creole has his traditions, and is as fine a specimen of the class as can be found in any country. He often, too, possesses a fine physical development. Independent, despising the cultivation of the soil as the former work of an inferior slave, he loves the free life of the woods, where he earns his livelihood, and where after his daily allotted task is done he can hunt, sleep, or amuse himself as he listeth. His Christmas orgies and general recklessness are his only drawbacks. In former days he has fought side by side with his master in many a hard fought battle, and a strong mutual attachment has always existed between the woodmen and their labourers. I always thought, until I came across a good Belize mahogany cutter, that American or Canadian axemen were the best in the world, but the former may be safely backed to square a log in less time and with better finish than either of the latter. Mr. Vaughan, one of the chief mahogany cutters, informs me the idea was once so strongly contended that the experiment was tried, to the discomfiture of the men imported for the purpose, who even failed to perform the ordinary task of a good mahogany cutter, besides which they could not stand the climate. When labour was imported for the sugar estates from the West India islands, a leaven of scum was introduced, who are anything but an acquisition, except to the gaols. These bad characters from the West India islands have tended more or less to demoralise the place, and their pernicious notions are sapping that good feeling which has always hitherto existed in the Colony between the natives of the place and their employers.

Most of the Chinamen imported deserted *en masse* to the Santa Cruz Indians, and it is a curious fact that whereas these Indians having declared extermination to "los blancos," and will not allow a stranger within their borders, they have fraternized with the Chinamen. The two races are peculiarly alike in features and disposition, and a natural attraction seems to have drawn them together. I hear the Chinamen are now teaching the Indians the progressive arts, and at the present moment manufacture gunpowder for them in their own territory. Perhaps the Chinese junk discovered a few years ago, buried some miles inland on the Pacific coast, may give a clue to the natural affinity there seems to be between the two races, whilst Dr. Le Plongeon, of Itza celebrity, and Mr. Henderson, a Maya scholar, trace a singular similarity in many words of the Maya and Japanese languages. Dr. Le Plongeon in his enthusiasm for the Maya, finds their language in every tongue, which leads believers to the logical conclusion that it was the Maya language that must have existed previous to the tower of Babel.

He writes me: "The Maya is the language generally spoken by "all the aborigines of the Yucatecan peninsula and those of British "Honduras, and after investigating during eight years the civiliza- "tion of the Incas of Peru, I have been studying since 1873 the "ruined monuments of Yucatan and the history of the Itzaes. In "a paper written for the Biblico-Archæological Society of London, "read also before the Antiquarian American Society of Worcester, "I show the Maya language to be one of the oldest on earth: con- "nected with most of the ancient languages, even the Welsh and "other European languages; coeval if not anterior to the Sanscrit. "To it I trace the names of the principal divinities worshipped in "Assyria, Chaldea, Egypt, Phœnicia, and Greece. In it I find not "only the etymology of the principal cities of these countries, and "some of those on the shores of the Mediterranean settled by their "Colonists, but also that of some of the tribes and places of Afghan- "istan. The Maya is therefore a language well worthy the attention "and study of philologists, and of the learned societies at home, since "it may be found to be a clue to the ethnology of the ancient "inhabitants of this western continent." In recent newspapers, correspondence from Afghanistan may be noticed in which "*the Maya villages*" near Cabul are spoken of, which may be a confirmation of some of Dr. Le Plongeon's theories.

The Spanish element, consisting chiefly of Ladinos, Mestizos, and a few Sambos, forms a considerable increasing portion of the population, but there is a something in the natural characteristics of the Spanish and English races preventing that sympathy of feeling which might otherwise exist. The freedom and security of our institutions are appreciated, and accomplished facts accepted, although perhaps there may be some regret that our ways of liberty are not exactly theirs. But I think the Spaniards are gradually begetting a confidence which order and good government engender. The pure Indians are as peaceable and inoffensive a race as I have ever met, but like others, if goaded too far, or if

BRITISH HONDURAS.

liquored to the requisite state of excitement, or their fanatical zeal aroused, they can become the most outer of barbarians, capable of any excess, especially if they have the example of other vices than their own before them.

Since hinting that in course of time the original Indian blood may probably resume its sway, I have heard that General Carrera, the late Indian President of Guatemala, looked forward to the time when the Indians would again rule the land of their ancestors, for it is alleged the tribes keep up secret communication with one another, and the want of order and good government generally will render the country an easy prey to any combinations.

The Caribs are timid and shy. Their women principally supply the local markets with yams and starch, the men are good sailors, and contribute in some degree to the labour market. Their ambition is to be left alone, and live as their forefathers have before them, and if disturbed or annoyed, simply move to another place.

A fair supply of labour is available from these elements, but it is of the usual tropical character. A new labour law is required, and the pernicious system of advances should be checked in the interests of all parties as far as practicable.

Wages range from $7 to $9 per month with rations equal to $4, making 44*s.* to 54*s.* per month. Labourers are generally hired at Christmas time with three months' advance of wages. This with what they receive at settling up for the previous year's work, furnishes the funds for the annual Christmas carouse or orgie. In the northern part of the Colony, the Spanish Indians have their own system of hiring. It being repugnant to British feelings and institutions, I think some steps should be taken to discourage it, or it should generally be made known that the system is unlawful, or it should be made so. Under it an Indian is hired and every opportunity is given him to get into the debt of his employer. This debt binds him to his employer, and he cannot hire himself out to another unless his debt is taken over with him. If he runs away, no one will employ him unless he can produce a free discharge, and if captured he is bound to work out his obligation, which he seldom if ever does, for he is kept steadily in debt, and it is alleged advantage is taken even when he is intoxicated to supply him with goods, so as to keep up a good account against him. As a general rule, death alone discharges the obligation between master and servant under this system.

Such are the interests of the place and the resources of the Colony, from which may be summarized—

1. There is valuable timber, and the same annual supply as hitherto exported can be maintained if the market warrants the production.
2. The commercial transactions consist of a home market, a depôt to supply our neighbours, and a transit traffic of goods and produce.

3. A fertile soil and pasturage lands of large extent.
4. The prospects of mineral developments.

Recent circumstances enable me to add the following facts. An experienced coffee planter lately accidentally visited the Colony, and I induced him to go up to the Cay in the Belize River, where Indian labour is available, and where he could see, as I did, coffee growing uncultivated, and be able to judge for himself the prospects of success of coffee planting in the Colony. He went, he saw, and he was conquered. Besides he is satisfied this side of the continent is much preferable to the Pacific slope, where so much coffee is grown on account of soil and climate, and more particularly as regards the effect of the sun, for it is more or less cloudy here throughout the year, which gives the requisite shade to the plant. He has taken up 4,000 acres of land, and has already commenced operations, instead of carrying them on elsewhere, as he intended. His partners, with their families, have since arrived. This must be convincing, and I feel sure also if Mr. Menier, of Paris, could see chocolate growing wild here as Mr. Lefebre saw coffee, he would likewise start plantations here in preference to other spots.

Mr. Blancineaux, a botanical collector of experience in Central America, at present in Belize, in answer to my inquiries, writes saying: "I saw the theobroma cocoa, the well-known variety of "soconosca, (which used to be specially reserved during the "Spanish occupation for the Court of Madrid,) though growing "wild in your colony, with fruit measuring from 2 to 2½ inches "in diameter, and 6 inches in length, and some that was cultivated from 3 to 3½ by 8 inches, and I am informed trees grow "and bear in six or seven years, whereas in other countries they "take 10 or 11 years." Referring to coffee, he states that "after his experience, he would recommend the Colony to anybody for coffee growing at 500 ft. to 2,000 ft. above sea level, as "better than the hills in the interior, if for no other reason on "account of the facility of transport." He also recommends the cultivation of the cinchona, saying "I have seen trees three years "old, and was astonished to see what an enormous size they had "grown in such a short time, and I believe trees will grow here, "if not better than elsewhere, quite as good as in their native "country of Peru."

The cultivation of henequen and pita or silk grass plants he strongly advises, on account of their quick growth and easy manipulation, and the market there always is for the fibre to make rope cables and hammocks. This is a flourishing industry in Yucatan, and from the port of Progresso I find the exportation of henequen has increased from 18,000 bales in 1870, to 54,000 in 1878, and this year the export is expected to reach 70,000. A bale is 600lbs., and worth on shipment $16, and if the cultivation of it pays there, I don't see why it should not here. In the same manner that coffee and cocoa grows, does all tropical vegetation

BRITISH HONDURAS.

thrive within the colony. Vanilla, sarsaparilla, and indiarubber have here a natural home, and tobacco, rice, pimento, ginger, cloves, nutmegs, pine apples, and other products, only require planting to grow luxuriantly.

The proposed substitution of steam communication between Belize and New Orleans, instead of with Jamaica, will doubtless open up an extensive market for fruit, which can be so readily cultivated here. To encourage this new industry a new land law has been passed, fixing the price of Crown lands at 4*s.* an acre, and giving leases, with pre-emptive right of purchase at any time during tenancy, for five years, at the annual rent of ten cents or 5*d.* per acre (*vide* Appendix). Unfortunately, the Crown lands are generally the least accessible in the Colony; the remainder are locked up in large blocks, and preserved for mahogany and logwood operations. It is anticipated immigrants will flow into the Colony from the Southern ports of the United States of America; if such should be the case, and fruit culture prove a success, and the clamour for lands for purposes of settlement and cultivation continue, it would appear advisable for the large proprietors to recognise the new resources which the cultivation of the soil offers, and accept the change should it come, otherwise demands may be made for measures having the effect of throwing open such lands to the public, as has been done in other Colonies under parallel circumstances, and it might be difficult to justify a refusal. It is contended the annual tax on land is merely nominal, $24 for a mahogany work, or $2 per square mile, is not burdensome, and if lands are not made available for cultivation, it would be reasonable to impose, at least, the condition of re-planting, to avoid the country becoming in course of time denuded of all its valuable timber. It is also alleged lands were originally granted for the sole purpose of cutting timber, and they have accidentally or otherwise gradually grown into freeholds. All that appeared necessary to secure a mahogany work in early days was to fell a mahogany tree, hang a grindstone, and build a hut on any unoccupied lands, which constituted a right of location according to recognized custom.

Naturally it would be suicidal for any steps to be taken in the matter until every prospect was assured the lands would be put to a better use than they are at present. The majority of the lands I don't think ever will be so. All that seems necessary at present is to throw open such lands along the banks of the rivers and spots already settled or suitable for settlement on the same terms as the Crown, reserving the rights of barquediering and way for timber. The principal proprietors, I believe, have expressed their willingness to dispose of their lands for the same price as charged by the Crown. This, if loyally carried out, will, I think, meet any requirements that are likely to arise for a long time to come. A fair test will then be furnished as to the value of the prospects anticipated. If their other lands are not required for cultivation, there is no reason for demanding any transfer of pro-

prietorship, for if the several works fall into different hands each owner would naturally set about cutting what wood he could find, and if such did take place without any restrictions the whole country would soon be denuded. The export of timber would increase wonderfully for a time, with fancied prosperity, but a famine of 10 or 20 years would intervene whilst fresh logwood or mahogany was growing, as the case may be. One of the largest estates, over a million acres, is at present in the market, in consequence of the proprietors going into bankruptcy. The result will afford a fair test of the market value of such lands.

The Colony has so far thrived under existing auspices, and although the time may be arriving to look out for new industries to take the place of those dying out, yet there is considerable danger in small communities of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs before another is caught. Many are not sanguine as to the results which some expect from the change in the mail route, and they deprecate American competition, which may oust British trade and its connexions, with the chance of substituting American houses for English firms, and look upon this as likely to be the sole result of the experiment. Whilst no advocate of drastic changes, nor alive to the necessity of putting a tropical plant in a hothouse in a warm climate, and a kind of Job's comforter as to the realisation of many of the anticipations surmised, yet I venture to think the question as to whether the Colony should be allowed to drift into a few fishing villages and yam plantations, as some predict, or an effort should be made to further develope and settle the country, is gradually becoming one for solution. If the former, the elements being what they are, a lingering kind of progress may be expected, with occasional fits of depression or elevation as may be excited by passing causes, with the ultimate result of converting the place into a kind of African's paradise. On the other hand, capital or immigration with careful management can turn the Colony into a model of successful colonisation, and an example to its surroundings.

It is amusing sometimes to listen to the most confident and decided opinions of persons who flatter themselves they know the Colony and its affairs from a few months' residence or superficial view of them under their happier or gloomier auspices, as chance may have afforded them the means of judging. I cannot give a better illustration than a little incident that occurred the other day. A party were visiting Manatee to inspect the Italian settlement there, and in the cool of the morning they were enjoying a walk across a charming piece of country; there was a glistening sheet of water on one side and a range of verdured hills on the other, with an open park-like strip of land between, along which the party were strolling. A hot argument arose as to the value of the surrounding lands, and the most enthusiastic of the party reached the sum of 1*l.* an acre. Returning through the same scenes later on in the day, when the midday sun was streaming on the path,

BRITISH HONDURAS.

no cooling breeze, a few flies and mosquitoes about, all more or less fatigued and *thirsty*, the scoffer of the party appealed to his enthusiastic friend for his value of land under present influences. The reply, received in scarcely civil tones, was, "it was not worth "a cent. an acre, and only a fool would settle in such a place." Thus it is, that wild and misleading statements may be sown broadcast respecting the merits of a place, according to varying influences that may be brought to bear to warp a person's judgment. It seems a good standing rule might be established requiring two years' residence, and a practical knowledge of the elements of a place under their different aspects, before an opinion should be ventured with a view of conveying an impression to others. I have more than once heard persons acknowledge on leaving a place after some years' residence, that had they known as much of it when they arrived as they did when they left, they would have acted very differently.

I have thus sketched the resources and capabilities of the Colonies, in view of the inquiries which I am informed are often addressed to Consuls of several European States residing here respecting the prospects of emigration to these parts, and the attention this portion of the world is receiving from capitalists and others. I allude to the various projects in contemplation at the present time, viz.: The Panama or Nicaragua Canal; the Mexican Cable to connect the ports along the Pacific; and another to connect the Atlantic Ports with Cuba; the Costa Rica, and Tehuantepec Railways; the new steam routes recently organised to these parts; the various companies forming to commence operations or undertakings in our neighbourhood; and the recent gold discoveries in Honduras.

I am aware the name of Honduras has not a savoury reputation at home, and past experience of ill success and want of security can be dismally referred to with regard to many projects and investments in Central America. Being in questionable company, it is the case of the dog with the bad name. There happens to be two Hondurases, but one has the handle of British to its name, and it is necessary to remember the distinction, for the part of Central America (7,562 square miles) which I am writing about, is under the English flag, with the British Empire at its back. And its government is not swayed by reasons of that jingle only, or only moved when there is a ring of metal in the air, nor do the inhabitants (although of course there are some grumblers) make politics and contraband the chief business of their lives. The present appearances of the Colony beyond Belize are hardly inviting to a stranger. There are no roads beyond a few tracks which are impassable in wet weather, and bungays, doreys, or pitpans comprise the means of water transport, yet there is no country I have been in which affords so many natural highways as this does. Rivers and pine ridges intersect the country in all directions, and intervening swamps or creeks are the only

difficulties to be surmounted in road-making. Nor does the place present that example of advancement or successful colonisation which seems so desirable should be the case, in view of our surroundings.

The circumstances of the Colony do not appear to comprise a choice of the usual three courses: it is a case of *laissez faire*, or the importation of capital or immigrants; any medium or tinkering course is likely to do as much harm as good. If the *laissez faire* principle is to be adopted, all that seems requisite is to put our house in order, so that it may become more attractive to outsiders, and furnish better means of communication with the outlying settlements: small local steamers adapted for the service, not repetitions of former abortions, will do more to encourage the settlers and ensure that general influence and supervision which seems so desirable in the interests of all. If an effort should be decided on, then capital or emigrants require to be introduced, and if the neighbouring Republics can raise loans for building railways to develope their resources, I don't see why the same cannot be done by the Colony with the security it has to offer. The Colony in 1870 had a deficit of 18,393*l.*, and a public debt of 29,590*l.* At the end of 1877 the deficit had been converted into a surplus of 25,366*l.*, and the public debt reduced to 5,040*l.*; the annual revenue averaging 41,000*l.*

It may be estimated that 50 per cent. of the foreign loans issued in London are in default, but I have yet to hear of a single English colony failing to meet its engagements. Under these circumstances, a loan of 100,000*l.* does not seem rash or unreasonable, the amount is only a little over two years' income, and this would build a couple of rail or tramways—one along the valley of the Old River, connecting Belize with the western frontier, a distance of 70 miles; the other could be made through the southern or northern district, as might be determined, the distance in either case to be limited to 30 miles. If in the Southern District, to open up the magnificent lands in the neighbourhood of the American settlement, and to give access to the highlands in the interior in the direction of San Luis and Coban; if in the Northern district, as a question of defence as much as to develope the agricultural resources of that part of the Colony. A portable railway would suffice, and the following estimate has been given me for 100 miles:—

Cost of plant 400*l.* per mile - -	- £40,000
Cost of clearing track 500*l.* per mile -	- 50,000
Contingencies - - -	- 10,000
	£100,000

The estimate for constructing the roadway may seem unreasonable, but the pine ridges which are hard sandy open plains, with necessary timber (*pinus rigida*) along the wayside, could be

[BRITISH HONDURAS.

availed of for the greater part of the distance; intervening swamps and creeks present the only difficulties, and they would form the only expensive parts of the routes. As a proof, I can refer to the road recently cut and cleared 40 ft. wide from the Belize Haulover to the neighbourhood of Garbutt's Falls, a distance of 60 or 70 miles, at a cost of under $5,000 (or 1,000*l.*) Two swamps and a creek require to be bridged to complete this road and render it fit for travel in wet weather. Such works would open up the Colony, and tap an extensive and rich country at the back. All kinds of timber could be transported by them, and ready access would be given to the interior and pleasanter parts of the country. If the Government is unwilling to undertake the task, I see no reason why it should not be undertaken by a company, in consideration of timber privileges and land concessions, proportionate to capital invested or works completed. The treaty of 1859 provides for a road from Guatemala to the settlement of Belize, but difficulties have apparently arisen to stay the work.

When I hear my countrymen are emigrating to Texas, I can have no hesitation in recommending this Colony, provided roads are constructed to enable them to reach the higher altitudes, when the climate would be no drawback, and if the surplus population of European States are seeking homesteads of their own abroad, I venture to assert they can gain them here, as well as an easy livelihood, besides enjoying a pleasant temperature all the year round, with less work and more security than can generally be obtained elsewhere in similar latitudes.

In conclusion I have to add, my endeavour has been to place before the public, without romancing, the actual condition of things, and it is for those who may feel interested in these parts to judge for themselves whether it is worth their while to invest in or emigrate to the Colony. I have refrained from the expression of decided opinions, as I have experienced the difficulties that a tropical climate invariably presents, especially on coast levels. The absence of any available publication to refer to, or newspaper to record the state of affairs, and inquiries that have been made regarding the Colony from abroad, prompted me to add a short sketch of the history and resources of the place to the narrative of my journey across the unexplored portion of the Colony, which is about the only spot in Central America hitherto unknown. The misapprehension that exists regarding the position and character of the place is also my apology for mentioning the extra attraction this part of Central America has to offer, from the prestige and security it enjoys of the British flag, and from the government of the territory being based on the traditions of the mother country and experience of the empire at large.

An appendix has been added, giving a few statistics, &c. of the Colony for the purposes of information, and to aid persons to form a fair opinion of the place.

As explained when giving an account of the expedition in the Assembly Rooms, my report was purposely delayed, awaiting a favourable opportunity, which it is thought has now arrived. His Excellency Governor Barlee kindly suggested the report should be printed, and has allowed it to be done in the Government printing office, but other work prevented it being taken in hand until the present time.

HENRY FOWLER.

Belize, British Honduras,
1st November 1879.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

APPENDIX.

THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THE STATISTICS OF THE COLONY OF BRITISH HONDURAS.

Government.

There is a Lieutenant-Governor, and Executive and Legislative Council, the usual Civil and Judicial Establishments, with a Lands Title Registry Office, and a Public Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, and Poor House, capable of accommodating respectively 36, 30, and 19 inmates.

Population.

Census, 1871:—

Males - - - -	12,603
Females - - - -	12,107
Total - -	24,710

The place of birth of the population was ascertained to be as follows:—

British Honduras - -	14,623	Africa - - - - -	631
United Kingdom - - -	191	China - - - - -	133
Europe - - - -	79	North America - - -	4
East Indies - - - -	10	Central America - - -	8,012
United States of America -	105	South America - - -	1
West Indies (British) - -	886	Not stated - - - -	8
Do. (Foreign) - -	27		
Total - - - - - - - -			24,710

N.B.—This census is generally considered inaccurate. The population is estimated now at 30,000. The Spanish-speaking inhabitants have increased in consequence of revolutionary troubles of the neighbouring States.

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
1875 - - -	£41,906	£40,839
1876 - - -	40,231	36,614
1877 - - -	44,020	43,444
1878 - - -	42,349	54,265

Pubic Debt.	1878.	*Surpus Funds Invested.*
£5,040 16*s.* 0*d.*		£12,860 6*s.* 0*d.*

From	Imports.			Articles.	Exports.		
	1876.	1877.	1878.		1876.	1877.	1878.
	£	£	£	Mahogany, ft.	1,821,307	3,080,807	3,146,582
Great Britain	99,946	84,540	110,798	Logwood, tons	14,349	14,882	13,704
United States	51,586	69,976	70,040	Cedar, ft.	18,923	77,582	87,129
Other countries.	11,871	12,716	10,652	Sugar, tons	2,017	1,932	1,736
				Other woods, „	151	84	112
Totals - £	163,403	167,232	191,490	Cocoanuts -	381,680	604,399	688,164
The total products of the Colony exported were valued at					£104,319	£114,584	£115,250

Taxes and Dues.

Tariff.

	dols.	cts.
Beef or pork, per barrel -	0	50
Beer, &c., per gallon - -	0	25
Cigars, per M. - - -	6	00
Spirits, per proof gallon -	2	00
Sugar, per lb. - - -	0	3
Tea, „ - - -	0	25
Tobacco, „ - - -	0	5
Wines, per gallon, 25 cts. and	1	00
All other goods on invoice price, per cent.		10

Dues.

Tonnage, per ton - -	0	62½
Light, „ - -	0	12½
Pilotage, per ft. from 75 cts. to $3, according to distance and locality.		

Land Tax.

	dols.	cts.
On annual value in towns, 3 per cent.		
Unoccupied - - -	1½	„
Mahogany or logwood works, per 3 miles base - -	24	00
Plantation, under 10 acres -	1	00
Land on Cays, per square mile	1	00
Houses on Cays, 3 per cent.		
All other lands, per square mile - - - - -	2	00

Steam Communication.

Royal Mail steamers leave Jamaica on 6th of each month for Belize, until further notice.

TIME TABLE of Contract Mail Packet between New Orleans and Belize for Fourth Quarter of the Year 1879.

Leave London.	Leave New Orleans.	Arrive at Belize.	Leave Belize.	Arrive at New Orleans.
20th Sept.	Saturday, 4th Oct.	Wednesday, 8th Oct.	Wednesday, 15th Oct.	Sunday, 19th Oct.
11th Oct.	„ 25th „	„ 29th „	„ 5th Nov.	„ 9th Nov.
1st Nov.	„ 15th Nov.	„ 19th Nov.	„ 26th „	„ 30th „
22nd „	„ 6th Dec.	„ 10th Dec.	„ 17th Dec.	„ 21st „
13th Dec.	„ 27th „	„ 31st „	„ 7th Jan. 1880	„ 14th Jan. 1880

And every third Saturday, Wednesday, and Sunday respectively thereafter. The contract is made for five years. Sailing vessels occasionally leave England for Belize, and regular traders sail nearly monthly between New York and the Colony.

The rates of passage between New Orleans and Belize are $35 and $20, and between Jamaica and Belize $35 and $10. British Honduras is included in the Postal Union.

Churches and Schools.

Church of England -	2 churches.	2 clergymen.	1 school.
Roman Catholic - -	5 „	7 priests.	7 „
Presbyterian Church -	1 „	1 minister.	nil.
Wesleyan Methodist -	3 „	4 „	6 schools.
Baptist - - - -	2 „	2 „	1 „

The above schools only receive Government aid, and are exclusive of private schools.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Military.

Detachments of the West India Regiments. The head-quarters are at Belize, with fortified outposts at Corosal and Orange Walk. Volunteer corps in Belize and Corosal.

An Agricultural Board has recently been appointed to distribute information relative to the cultivation of suitable products, to introduce the best varieties, and to offer bonuses for the first shipments in quantity of the marketable fruits.

Climate.

The following extract from papers presented to Parliament, August 1878, page 12, relating to the climate of British Honduras, in a Despatch of Lieutenant-Governor Barlee, C.M.G., is appended as a guide on the subject:—

"In any general report on British Honduras the question of climate should not be omitted. That the climate has been much maligned there can be little doubt. Belize is perhaps the least healthy part of the Colony. Surrounded by mangrove swamps, and at times infested with sand flies and other insects to an extent almost beyond endurance, it is yet a healthy place, and I have never seen Europeans in any tropical climate possess so generally an appearance of such health as they do here.

"Yellow fever visited the Colony in 1869; some 30 cases occurred among the European population, but it did not prove so virulent or fatal as in many of the West India islands, nor did it affect the coloured population. Cholera was last prevalent in 1867, when it made great ravages among the coloured population, but did not prevail at all among the Europeans.

"Resident medical men agree in classing the climate as superior to Jamaica or other West India islands; but be this as it may, there can be no doubt that away from Belize in the country settlements a totally different climate prevails, and that it is healthy may be gathered from the fact that at the American settlement alluded to, where some five or six families have lived for a period of nine years, not a single death has occurred, and no illness of other than a temporary nature.

"I have thought it right to state this, as the Colony bears a very bad character as regards climate. It is tropical and hot, there are many disagreeable matters to be put up with; but on the whole it is a country where Europeans, with reasonable care and steady habits, may live for years in the enjoyment of excellent health, and of this there are numerous instances in all parts of the Colony."

The census for 1871 returns 30 persons over 90 years of age, and 4 over 100.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, noticing the Pressure of the Atmosphere, the Temperature of the Air, the Fall of Rain, the prevailing Winds, and the variations in the Weather.

1878.	READING OF BAROMETER.				TEMPERATURE OF AIR.						DRY AND WET BULB.		RAIN.		WIND.	REMARKS.
	Mean of Month.	Highest in Month.	Lowest in Month.	Range.	Highest in Month.	Lowest in Month.	Range in Month.	Mean of all Highest.	Mean of all Lowest.	Mean daily Range.	Mean of Dry Bulb.	Mean of Wet Bulb.	Number of Days it fell.	Amount collected.	General Directions.	
January -	29·51	30·98	29·80	1·18	89·00	78·00	11·00	86·38	69·25	17·13	85·76	78·41	12	4·29	N. & N.W.	Cool, greatest barometrical range, occasional wet, westerly winds.
February -	30·03	30·91	29·91	1·00	86·00	65·00	21·00	82·01	73·19	8·82	79·56	76·57	1	1·50	S.E. & N.	Northerly winds, cool, dry and pleasant.
March - -	30·13	30·98	29·84	1·14	89·25	68·00	21·25	84·70	79·80	4·90	83·81	82·05	4	2·15	S.E. & N.W.	Warm and dry, slight showers during night.
April - -	29·91	29·97	29·15	0·82	92·00	80·00	12·00	88·00	82·00	6·00	87·47	83·78	2	0·50	S.E. & E.	Pleasant and dry, with a few very hot days.
May - -	29·98	30·09	29·91	0·18	89·50	75·50	14·00	87·00	81·28	5·72	86·66	82·44	12	3·85	S.E. & E.	Hot, frequently sultry, and occasional showers.
June - -	29·99	30·10	29·92	0 18	89·00	72·25	16·75	87·45	79·62	8·83	87·02	75·30	10	6·40	S.E. & E.	Fine and pleasant.
July - -	30·00	30·91	29·84	1·07	88·75	75·00	13·75	86·97	81·27	5·70	86·27	81·67	16	4·41	S.E.	Generally dry, occasional squalls with rain.
August - -	29·99	30·01	29·84	0·17	89·25	75·00	14·25	87·41	80·45	6·96	86·50	80·53	16	5·61	S.E.	Much lightning, thunder, and rain.
September -	29·63	30·04	29·88	0·16	88·50	72·25	16·25	86·54	77·04	9·50	84·45	80·65	20	20·69	N. & N.W.	Heavy rainfall, much lightning and thunder.
October - -	29·96	30·03	29·79	0·24	88·75	70·00	18·75	84·12	75·28	8·84	74·52	71·18	21	29·89	N. & N.W.	Largest rainfall yet recorded occurred on 19th.
November -	30·01	30·13	29·93	0·20	84·25	64·50	19·75	80·72	74·83	5·89	78·82	75·39	16	15·79	N.W. & N.E.	Cold and dull, heavy rains.
December -	29·90	30·13	29·22	0·91	84·50	61·00	23·50	77·75	64·71	13·04	76·70	73·33	16	10·41	N.	Lowest temperature, greatest range of thermometer; rain.
Mean -	29·92	30·35	29·75	0·60	88·22	71·37	16·85	84·92	76·56	8·44	83·12	78·44	12·1	8·79		

A. HUNTER, P.M.O.

N.B.—In forwarding these observations, the Public Medical Officer reports that the year 1878 was exceptional as regards heat and rain. "The temperature in the town of Belize "amongst the buildings was frequently noted at 94 and 95 in the shade, a height never before reached in his experience, and no previous record shows anything approaching the "quantity of rain which fell during the months of October and November. In one night as much as 7 inches of rain fell."
The range of the thermometer on the expedition in the higher latitudes of the Colony was from 46° to 78°, showing a difference of temperature to that experienced on the coast.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

The following is a copy of a Government notice respecting Crown Lands.

BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS.

Colonial Secretary's Office, September 11, 1879.

THE following facilities for acquiring waste Crown Lands under Ordinance No. 8 of 1879, recently passed, are published for general information.

By Command,

HENRY FOWLER, Colonial Secretary.

1. Town lands shall be offered by public auction at an upset price to be recommended by the Surveyor-General of Crown Lands and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and may be put up either by order of the Lieutenant-Governor or upon the application of some person, who shall at the time of making such application deposit 10 per cent. of the upset price. Such deposits shall, if no advance on the upset price be made, be considered as part payment on completion of purchase; an amount equal to 10 per cent. on the purchase money shall be paid on the fall of the hammer when lands are put up for sale by order of the Lieutenant-Governor. In every case the balance shall be paid within 30 days from the day of sale, and in default thereof the purchaser shall forfeit his purchase money and also all right of title to the land.

2. Rural or country lands shall be sold without auction at not less than one dollar an acre; and the minimum acreage of rural sections shall be five acres, but any land so shut in by private lands or other bounds as not to contain five acres may be sold at such rate as the Lieutenant-Governor on the recommendation of the Surveyor-General of Crown Lands may direct.

3. It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor to issue licenses for five years to persons desirous to occupy waste lands of the Crown, in sections not less than 50 nor more than 500 acres, for purposes of cultivation or improvement, at a yearly rent of 10 cents. an acre, with right to purchase at any time during the tenancy, or such licenses may be renewed by the Lieutenant-Governor.

4. A location ticket will be issued to persons authorised to occupy any portion of the Crown lands, which will be exchanged for a grant on the block of land being surveyed. No costs of survey will be charged, but a uniform fee of five dollars will be charged for every deed of grant, and a fee of one dollar for recording the same.

5. Application to purchase or lease should be made to the Surveyor-General of Crown Lands, or at the offices of the paid magistrates in the rural districts, at whose offices forms of application can be had, and a deposit of one dollar is required to accompany an application to purchase, and two dollars and a half on application to lease.

6. Persons already occupying Crown lands may obtain grants or leases of the same upon such terms as may appear to the Lieutenant-Governor just and reasonable, provided his Excellency shall see fit to grant the same, after taking all the circumstances into his consideration.

7. Any person found unlawfully occupying Crown Lands is liable, on conviction thereof, to a penalty not exceeding 100 dollars.

BARBADOS.

No 6.

Governor STRAHAN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Barbados, December 11, 1879.

I HAVE this day received, and transmit at once, the accompanying Blue Book of Barbados for the year 1878, together with a report thereon by the Colonial Secretary.

2. The delay in transmitting the Blue Book is explained in my despatch noted in the margin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. C. STRAHAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK, 1878.

This report is confined for the most part to a recapitulation of the returns in the Blue Book. It has not been considered necessary in view of the full report* made last year to enter more into detail on the present occasion.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
2. The revenue for the year 1878 amounted to -	139,192
And the expenditure to - - - -	124,308
Showing a balance in favour of the Treasury of -	14,884
On 31st December 1877 the Treasurer's balance was	5,310
Leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands on 31st December 1878 of - - - -	20,194

Revenue.

	£
The revenue for 1878 was - - - -	139,192
That for 1877 - - - - -	121,423
Increase in 1878 - - -	17,769

4. This is mainly due to increases under the head of Customs. About 9,000*l.* is due to payment of customs duties on goods prematurely taken out of bond in anticipation of the increased tariff which came into force on 1st January 1879 under the new

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* Printed in [C.-2273] of 1879, pp. 38–78.

BARBADOS.

Trade Act. The remainder of the increase in customs duties is attributed to the stimulus applied to trade by the comparatively high prices realised for local produce during the year 1877.

5. A table is appended showing the increases and decreases in the principal sources of revenue in 1878 as compared with 1877:—

Source of Revenue.	1877.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Tonnage	13,295	14,441	1,146	—
Import	54,616	65,163	10,547	—
20 per cent.	10,924	13,034	2,110	—
Warehouse rent	449	455	6	—
Port dues	2,766	2,698	—	68
Militia tax	4,005	3,783	—	222
Rum duty	15,252	17,082	1,830	—
Retail liquor licenses	2,888	3,157	269	—
Post office	2,032	2,384	352	—
Receipts in aid	3,569	3,893	324	—
Special receipts	863	2,203	1,340	—
Repayments	733	458	—	275
Superannuation	965	945	—	20
Water rate	3,666	4,083	417	—
Fire brigade	716	1,044	328	—
Miscellaneous	1,663	1,443	—	220
Total	118,402	136,266	18,669	805
		118,402	805	
Increase in 1878	- -	17,864	17,864	Net increase.

Expenditure.

	£
6. The expenditure in 1878 was	124,308
„ „ „ 1877 „	119,611
Showing an increase of	4,697

7. But against this increase should be charged certain items of expenditure incurred in 1876–1877 and not paid until 1878, as follows:—

	£
Printing 1876–1877	1,313
Telegraph Company three quarters subsidy	1,875
Telegrams 1876–1877	603
Military outpost expenditure 1876–1877	421
Supplies to special constables 1876	287
Other expenses incurred 1876–1877, and paid in 1878	548
Total	5,047

Showing that the current expenditure in 1878 was somewhat less than that in the previous year.

8. The following table affords a comparison between the principal heads of expenditure in 1877 and 1878 :—

Heads of Expenditure.	1877.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Civil	4,642	4,858	216	—
Customs	4,693	4,712	19	—
Excise	1,172	1,105	—	67
Post Office	3,330	3,450	120	—
Judicial	10,898	9,786	—	1,112
Ecclesiastical	11,382	11 492	110	—
Educational	7,998	8,786	788	—
Police	20,383	21,362	979	—
Harbour police	2,507	2,199	—	308
Fire brigade	1,022	1,158	136	—
Prisons	7,885	6,428	—	1,457
General Hospital	6,836	7,250	414	—
Lazaretto	3,366	2,431	—	935
Lunatic asylum	3,490	3,231	—	259
Superannuation	2,631	2,708	77	—
Roads	5,900	6,050	150	—
Government House	242	308	66	—
Lighthouses	1,126	791	—	335
Molehead	328	1,850	1,522	—
Works and buildings	13	151	138	—
Drawback	4,519	5,354	835	—
Waterworks Company	8,531	6,431	—	2,100
Miscellaneous	2,668	6,666	3,998	—
Total	115,562	118,557	9,568	6,573
		115,562	6,573	—
Net increase		2,995	2,995	—

Local Revenue and Expenditure.

9. The parochial revenue and expenditure returns are incomplete this year. The parish of St. Peter has not been able to furnish any return, owing to the disappearance of the parochial treasurer's books. Last year's figures for the parish of St. Peter have accordingly been inserted in the following tables:—

10. According to the foregoing tables, the revenue raised for parochial and highway purposes during 1877–1878 was as follows:—

	£
Parochial purposes	34,952
Highway purposes	7,379
Legislative grant for highways	5,450
Total	47,781

11. The expenditure was as follows:—

	£
Parochial	29,989
Highway	12,829
Total	42,818

BARBADOS.

Showing a balance of 4,963*l.* in favour of the parishes on the year's transactions.*

12. The following is a comparison of the local revenue and expenditure for 1877 and 1878 :—

	Parochial Purposes.			Highway Purposes.		
	1877.	1878.	Increase.	1877.	1878.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue - -	30,634	34,952	4,318	12,835	12,829	6
Expenditure -	29,503	29,989	486	†12,835	†12,829	6

13. 13,272*l.* was expended in poor relief during the year, as against 11,689*l.* in the previous year, an increase of 1,583*l.* In the parish of St. Michael a sum of 6,078*l.* was expended on poor relief, against 5,997*l.* in the previous year, an increase of 81*l.*

14. The expenditure on roads ranged from 75*l.* per mile in Bridgetown and 36*l.* per mile in St. Michael, to 17*l.* per mile in St. Lucy.

15. The state of the roads in the parish of St. Michael is the subject of grave complaint. With the exception of the roads in St. Peter's parish, which have fallen out of repair for want of funds, the remaining roads are in good order.

Public Debt.

16. No alteration has been made since 1877 in the public debt, which amounts to 116*l.*

Military Expenditure.‡

17. The military expenditure is returned at 79,270*l.*, showing an increase of 21,313*l.* over 1877. The following table affords a comparison of the principal items :—

Items.	1877.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Regimental and staff pay - -	21,217	25,857	4,640	—
Provisions, transports, &c. -	21,047	30,766	9,719	—
Commissariat and ordnance -	4,905	7,238	2,273	—
Medical - - - -	2,560	3,238	678	—
Engineer department - -	5,942	9,462	3,520	—
Passages and freight - -	—	310	310	—
Total - -	55,731	76,871	21,140	—
		55,731	—	
Net increase in 1878 - -		21,140	21,140	

* The cash in hand amounted only to 1,448*l.*, the remainder of the balance being represented by arrears of taxes.

† The full amount is always expended taking one year with another.

‡ The military expenditure is defrayed by the Imperial Government, and does not form a charge on the revenue of the Colony.

Works and Buildings.

18. A sum of 3,727*l.* is returned as having been expended on works and buildings during 1878. Of this sum, 1,150*l.* was expended on dredging the Careenage, 563*l.* on repairs to police stations, 417*l.* on repairs to wharf walls, 135*l.* on repairs to the Leper Asylum, 371*l.* on repairs and alterations at Glendairy Prison, and 154*l.* on repairing the market.

Legislation.

19. Forty Acts were passed during the year, making with those passed at the end of 1877 a total of 44 Acts passed during the session of 1877–1878.

20. The most important measure passed during the session was the "Education Act," an Act mainly founded on the recommendations of the Commission appointed to inquire into the subject of Education in this Colony, which presented its report in 1876.

21. The principal features of the measure are as follows:— The Governor is empowered to appoint an education board to consist of a president and eight members. Three of the board are to be members of the Legislative Council and four members of the Assembly. This board is to submit to the Legislature annually estimates of their proposed expenditure on elementary schools, and is not to suggest an increase of more than 2,000*l.* in any one year. If the estimates are not passed, the board is allowed to expend money at the rate last voted by the House. Liberal provision is made for exhibitions at elementary schools. The board is empowered to make rules for the government of the elementary schools within certain limits prescribed by the Act, may enforce the half-time system, and compel children to attend public elementary schools. No school which provides for the education of children of any particular colour is allowed to receive Government aid. The board is empowered to frame schemes for the establishment of second grade schools, for girls as well as boys; for the establishment of a training college for schoolmasters, and of a ragged or industrial school.

22. The Act proceeds to make liberal provision for two first grade schools, for the assistance of youths who may succeed in winning the Gilchrist Scholarship, for the establishment of scholarships at Cambridge and Oxford, and for the foundation of an Island Professorship of natural science, whilst the grants towards the scholarships at Codrington College, a local institution, are increased. The expenditure under the Act is limited to 15,000*l.* a year. Altogether the measure is conceived in a liberal spirit, and if the annual estimates of the Education Board be dealt with by the House in a like manner, cannot fail to prove of great and lasting benefit to the inhabitants of the Colony.

23. The Act for the appointment of an inspector of almshouses and asylums was passed in deference to the Earl of Carnarvon's suggestion that some provision should be made for an efficient inspection of public institutions.

BARBADOS.

24. The Coroners' Act reduces the number of jurors at an inquest to seven, increases the salaries of the coroners, and provides for the payment of jurors. Under the old system much hardship was caused by labouring men being summoned to serve on coroners' juries, and losing their day's wages in consequence. Each juror who has been summoned, and attends an inquest is now entitled to a fee of 1*s.* 6*d.*

25. The Act to provide for the payment of jurors who may be returned to serve at the Court of Grand Sessions removes an anomaly from the Statute Book. Under the law as it stood before this Act was passed, freeholders only were entitled to remuneration for their services as jurors. Under this Act all persons returned to serve as jurors who do so serve are entitled to remuneration at the rate of 10*s.* per day.

26. The Act for the prevention of petty trespasses makes a trespass committed in a wanton and insulting manner a criminal offence. The maximum penalty is a fine of 2*l.* and costs, or, in default, a month's imprisonment.

Offences of this nature appear not to be uncommon, and it is stated that a plaintiff who succeeds in a civil action for trespass often cannot get his damages paid, as the defendant has no effects.

27. The Trade Act of 1878 consolidates all former Acts of the Island relating to trade. Some slight alterations are made in the specific duties, and the ad valorem duties are raised from $3\frac{1}{5}$ to 4 per cent. This Act was pushed through rather hurriedly at the end of the session, and some of its minor provisions require amendment.

28. Amongst the remaining Acts passed during the session may be mentioned the Railway Act Amendment Act, under which the Barbados Railway Company has begun its work, the Dower Act, the Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Act, the Act to amend the Law with regard to Petty Theft, the Act to facilitate the despatch of business before Grand Juries, and the Act to provide for the more convenient administration of the Extradition Acts.

Political Franchise.

29. One thousand six hundred and sixty-five voters are returned on the lists for 1878, giving an average of 138 per constituency, or 69 voters per member. The constituencies range from 38 in St. Andrew to 408 in Bridgetown.

Councils and Assemblies.

30. Mr. Thomas Kerr and Mr. William Manford resigned their seats as members of Legislative Council during 1878. Mr. Augustus Briggs, formerly Speaker of the House of Assembly, Dr. Sealy, a member of the House and coroner for District "C," and Mr. John Worrell Carrington (since appointed Solicitor-General), were appointed to the Legislative Council towards the close of the year.

Civil Establishment.

31. The Government of Windward Islands was administered by Lieutenant-General Farren, C.B., from 10th to 30th July, and by Lieutenant-Governor George Dundas, C.M.G., from 30th July to the end of the year, during the absence on leave of the Governor-in-Chief.

32. Several minor appointments were made during the year.

Pensions.

33. The pension list at the end of 1878 was as follows:—

	£
Statutory Pensioners - - -	308
Superannuation Fund - -	2,741
Police Reward Fund - - -	2,637
	5,686

34. During 1878 2,709*l.* was paid to Superannuation Fund pensioners; the contribution to the fund amounted to 945*l.*, showing a deficit of 1,764*l.*

35. Police Reward pensioners received 2,190; the contribution to the fund amounted to 536*l.*, leaving 1,654 to be supplied from the Treasury.

Population.

36. The population of the Colony in 1871, exclusive of shipping, amounted to 161,594. The return of baptisms and burials since 1871 is as follows:—

Year.	Baptisms.	Burials.	Increase.	Add one-eighth Baptisms for Persons not belonging to the Church of England.	Total Increase.	Less by Emigration (estimated).	Net Increase.
1872	6,683	4,341	2,342	835	3,177	1,000	2,177
1873	6,540	3,316	3,224	817	4,041	1,000	3,041
1874	7,175	3,631	3,544	897	4,441	1,000	3,441
1875	5,099	4,521	578	637	1,215	1,000	215
1876	6,381	3,917	2,464	797	3,261	1,000	2,261
1877	7,071	3,810	3,261	884	4,145	1,000	3,145
1878	6,538	4,590	1,948	817	2,765	1,000	1,765
Total	45,487	28,126	17,461	5,684	23,045	7,000	16,045

37. The population of Barbados at the close of 1878 may thus be estimated at 177,639, or about 1,069 to the square mile.

There is no registration, properly so called, of births, deaths, and marriages, in Barbados. The baptisms, marriages, and burials, in the Anglican Church are recorded in the parish registers, copies of which are deposited annually in the record branch of the Colonial Secretary's office. In calculating the annual

increases of population, it has been customary to add one-eighth to the number of baptisms in the Anglican Church, so as to cover the probable number of baptisms in the churches belonging to other sects.

This allowance is based on the calculation made by Governor Rawson in his "Report on the population of Barbados, 1851–1871," para. 91, from which it appears that the per-centage proportion of each denomination, as arrived at by the census of 1871, was as follows :—

Church of England -	88·9	
Wesleyans - -	7·6	11·1 or one-eighth of the per-centage proportions of the Church of England.
Moravians - -	2·9	
Roman Catholics -	0·3	
Others and "not stated."	0·3	
	100	

No such allowance has hitherto been made for burials. In the parish of St. Michael all denominations use the same cemetery, and it is stated that in the country districts almost all the burials take place in the Anglican burial grounds. Under these circumstances, the estimate of population is not, of course, so reliable as could be wished; and it will probably be considered a matter for regret, that in a Colony in which the question of the increase of the population is of special interest, all proposals made to introduce a proper system of registration of births, deaths, and marriages have, hitherto, been rejected.

38. The estimated net increase of population during 1878 was 1,765, 615 below the average annual increase of the six years 1872–1877.

39. The number of burials in 1878 was greater than in any year since 1875, being 2·5 per cent. of the estimated population against 2·6 per cent. in that year. The number of baptisms was lower than in any year of the series except 1876.

Imports and Exports.

40. The values of the imports and exports for the three years 1876–78 were as follows :—

Total value of imports:

	£	
1876 - - -	1,027,881	Average, 1,091,642*l.*
1877 - - -	1,144,313	
1878 - - -	1,102,732	

Total value of exports:

	£	
1876 - - -	964,262	Average, 1,043,528*l.*
1877 - - -	1,097,912	
1878 - - -	1,078,411	

41. In 1878 the imports show a decrease of 3·6, and the exports of 1·7 per cent., as compared with 1877.

42. The decrease in value of exports for the year 1878 as compared with 1877 was 19,501*l.*, which may be accounted for as follows:—

	£	£
Staple crop:		
Molasses, 1877 - - -	142,398	
„ 1878 - - -	139,669	
Decrease - - -	-	3,729
Rum, 1877 - - - -	152	
„ 1878 - - -	75	
Decrease - - -	-	77
Sugar, 1877 - - -	705,907	
„ 1878 - - -	652,660	
Decrease - - -	-	53,247
Total decrease due to staple crop -	-	57,053

Other articles (re-exports):

	£	£
Flour, 1878 - -	71,747	
„ 1877 - -	52,321	
Increase - -	-	19,426
Guano, 1878 - -	28,240	
„ 1877 - -	12,300	
Increase - -	-	15,940
Staves, 1878 - -	8,433	
„ 1877 - -	5,614	
Increase - -	-	2,819
Total - -	-	38,185
Net decrease - -	-	18,868

43. There was a decrease of 5,125*l.* in the re-exports of salt fish, but this is countervailed by increases in re-exports of salt meat, coffee, arrowroot, &c.

44. The following tables may be of interest in connexion with the subject of the trade of 1878.

EXPORT of STAPLE CROP of 1878. Direction of Export.

Countries.	Sugar.		Rum.		Molasses.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	hhds.	£	gals.	£	puns.	£
United Kingdom -	29,738	446,077	—	—	25	112
United States -	12,140	182,107	15	1	12,682	57,071
British North America	1,406	21,097	60	4	18,277	82,251
Bermuda - -	218	3,268	—	—	52	235
British West Indies -	4	63	—	—	—	—
Foreign West Indies -	2	28	—	—	—	—
Total - -	43,508	652,660	75	5	31,036	139,669

BARBADOS.

EXPORT of STAPLE CROP for 1876–77–78 (exclusive of re-exports).

Years.	Sugar.		Rum.		Molasses.		Total Value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
	hhds.	£	gals.	£	puns.	£	£
1876	37,848	567,723	103	7	24,001	108,015	675,745
1877	47,260	705,907	2,036	152	31,644	142,398	848,357
1878	43,508	652,660	75	5	31,036	139,669	792,334

EXPORT of ARTICLES the Produce or Manufacture of Barbados, 1877–78 (exclusive of Sugar and its Products).

Exports.	1877.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Aloes	714	50	—	664
Arrowroot	114	24	—	90
Bones	22	65	43	—
Cigars	72	—	—	72
Casks, &c.	1,187	209	—	978
Cotton and seed	160	31	—	129
Fruit, &c.	3,026	4,604	1,578	—
Furniture	160	—	—	160
Ginger (green)	56	41	—	15
Groceries	243	272	29	—
Hides	363	913	550	—
Limestone and lime	4,933	3,455	—	1,478
Matches	1,158	1,326	168	—
Whale oil	1,108	1,887	779	—
Petroleum	2,424	1,437	—	987
Spirits	—	2	2	—
Sugar	3	11	8	—
Tamarinds	987	1,088	101	—
Total	16,730	15,415	3,258	4,573
	15,415			3,258
	1,315	Net decrease		1,315

DIRECTION of TRADE, 1875–76–77–78.

IMPORTS.

Countries.	Value.				Per-centage.			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
	£	£	£	£				
United Kingdom	443,091	392,711	440,915	350,894	37·3	38·2	38·5	31·8
British Possessions	159,982	137,226	169,194	158,951	14·4	13·3	14·	14·4
Foreign Countries	584,420	497,934	534,204	592,887	49·3	48 5	47·5	53·8
Totals	1,187,493	1,027,871	1,144,313	1,102,732	100·	100·	100·	100·

EXPORTS.

Countries.	Value.				Per-centage.			
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
	£	£	£	£				
United Kingdom - -	782,434	458,669	484,755	450,971	53·	47·5	44·1	41·8
British Possessions -	388,913	319,033	261,044	337,111	20·5	23·9	29·9	31·2
Foreign Countries - -	303,563	186,560	352,113	290,329	27·5	32·	32·	27·
Total -	1,474,910	964,262	1,097,912	1,078,411	100·	100·	100·	100·

DIVISION of EXPORTS, 1876–77–78.

Exports.	1876.		1877.		1878.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£		£	
Produce of the Colony :—						
Staple - - -	675,745	70·	848,357	77·2	792,334	73·5
Other - - -	13,606	1·4	16,730	1·4	15,415	1·4
Re-exports - - -	274,911	28·6	232,825	21·4	270,662	25·1
Totals - -	964,262	100·	1,097,912	100·	1,078,411	100·

TRADE as compared with Population, 1878.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports per Head.	Exports per Head.	Trade per Head.	Estimated Population, 1878.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
United Kingdom - -	350,894	450,971	801,865	1 19 6	2 10 9	4 10 3	177,639
British Possessions - -	158,951	337,111	496,062	0 17 11	1 17 11	2 15 10	
Foreign Countries - -	592,887	290,329	883,216	3 6 9	1 12 8	4 19 5	
Totals - - -	1,102,732	1,078,411	2,181,143	6 4 2	6 1 4	12 5 6	

Shipping.

45. The following tables are based on the Blue Book returns for the years 1877–78.

TOTAL TONNAGE. Comparative Table.

	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.
Inwards:—					
British - - -	152,579	130,304	146,635	145,239	143,699
Foreign - - -	52,780	44,231	45,759	54,318	49,272
Outwards:—					
British - - -	153,409	130,276	144,589	146,182	143,614
Foreign - - -	50,408	45,925	45,174	55,141	49,162
Total British tonnage -	305,988	260,580	291,224	291,421	287,304
Total foreign tonnage -	103,188	90,156	90,156	109,459	98,434
Gross tonnage -	409,176	350,736	382,157	400,880	385,738

VESSELS entered Inwards. Comparative Table.

	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.
Number:—					
British - - -	1,137	969	972	970	1,012
Foreign - - -	236	230	213	243	231
Total - -	1,373	1,199	1,185	1,213	1,243
Tonnage:—					
British - - -	152,579	130,304	146,635	145,239	143,689
Foreign - - -	52,780	44,231	45,759	54,318	49,272
Total - -	205,359	174,535	192,394	199,557	192,961
Average tonnage:—					
British - - -	134	134	150	149	141
Foreign - - -	223	192	214	223	213
Total - -	149	145	162	164	155

Vessels with Cargo. Comparative Table.

—	Number.					Tonnage.					Average Tonnage.				
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.
Inwards:—															
British - - - - -	984	868	872	885	902	127,398	117,364	127,041	128,820	125,156	129	135	145	144	113
Foreign - - - - -	215	210	204	226	214	49,226	40,538	43,775	49,723	45,815	228	193	214	220	214
Total - - -	1,199	1,078	1,076	1,111	1,116	176,624	157,902	170,816	178,543	170,971	147	146	158	160	155
Outwards:—															
British - - - - -	1,050	878	883	881	923	135,813	114,061	129,735	129,942	127,388	129	129	146	147	138
Foreign - - - - -	142	146	146	152	146	26,998	25,153	26,818	30,500	27,367	183	172	182	200	184
Total - - -	1,192	1,024	1,029	1,033	1,069	162,811	139,214	156,553	160,442	154,755	136	135	152	149	143

Vessels in Ballast. Comparative Table.

—	Number.					Tonnage.					Average Tonnage.				
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.	1875	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.
Inwards:—															
British - - - - -	153	101	100	85	110	25,181	12,940	19,594	16,419	18,534	164	128	195	193	170
Foreign - - - - -	21	20	9	17	17	3,554	3,693	1,984	4,595	3,456	169	184	220	270	210
Total - - -	174	121	109	102	127	28,735	16,633	21,578	21,014	21,990	165	137	197	196	174
Outwards:—															
British - - - - -	99	92	80	95	91	17,596	16,215	14,854	16,240	16,226	177	176	185	170	177
Foreign - - - - -	87	86	68	92	83	23,410	20,772	18,356	24,641	21,795	268	241	269	266	211
Total - - -	186	178	148	187	174	41,006	36,987	33,210	40,881	38,021	226	207	224	218	219

TABLE showing the DIRECTION of TRADE.

Cargo only.	1875.		1876.		1877.		1878.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage
Entered from—								
United Kingdom -	114	57,615	109	59,555	107	63,297	100	62,322
British North American Colonies -	151	23,350	112	16,357	108	19,965	134	19,182
British West Indies and British Guiana -	639	33,902	509	31,347	602	36,342	604	35,837
Other British Possessions -	7	655	7	478	8	1,316	7	571
United States of America -	187	45,041	164	37,795	168	41,146	197	52,101
Foreign West Indies -	48	2,385	56	4,568	42	2,759	36	3,332
Whaling -	9	1,377	14	2,942	6	899	7	774
Other - -	44	12,299	27	4,860	35	8,092	26	4,424
Total -	1,199	176,624	1,078	157,902	1,076	170,816	1,111	178,543
Cleared to—								
United Kingdom -	107	39,105	66	24,445	67	24,445	55	24,250
British North American Colonies -	67	10,680	46	6,828	39	5,698	69	11,185
British West Indies and British Guiana -	801	67,806	747	67,659	710	76,214	752	86,278
Other British Possessions -	5	309	5	317	7	495	5	330
United States of America -	90	18,179	47	9,114	99	22,704	71	16,191
Foreign West Indies -	86	11,231	84	14,271	76	10,984	48	7,562
Whaling -	1	273	3	613	2	252	2	236
Other - -	35	15,228	26	15,967	29	15,761	31	14,410
Total	1,192	162,811	1,024	139,214	1,029	156,553	1,033	160,402

DIRECTION of TRADE. Per-centages on Total Tonnage.

Cargo only.	Inwards.					Outwards.				
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.
To and from—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom -	32	37	37	35	35	24	17	15	16	18
British North American Colonies - -	13	10	10	11	11	6	5	3	6	5
British West Indies and British Guiana -	19	20	21	20	20	42	49	48	55	49
United States of America -	25	24	24	29	25	11	6	14	10	10
Foreign West Indies - -	1	3	1	1	2	7	10	7	5	7
Other - -	10	6	7	4	7	10	13	13	8	11
Total -	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

46. It will be seen that there was an increase of 18,723 tons in the gross tonnage of the port for 1878 as compared with 1877. The increase in British tonnage was, however, only 197 tons. As will be seen from the following table, there was a marked increase in the proportion of tonnage of American vessels trading to the Island during 1878.

Nationality.	Per-centage.				
	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.
British - - - -	74	74	76	72	74
United States of America -	18	21	19	23	20
Other - - - -	8	5	5	5	6
Total - -	100	100	100	100	100

47. The average tonnage of the British ships remains about the same as heretofore whilst that of foreign vessels shows a decided increase.

48. The tables referring to direction of trade show a steady decline in the trade towards the United Kingdom whilst the trade from the United Kingdom appears nearly stationary.

49. The trade to the British West Indies and British Guiana shows a steady increase, and the same may be observed of the import trade from the United States.

BARBADOS.

50. The following is the return of seamen:—

——	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average.
Inwards - -	10,394	9,441	9,639	9,516	9,748
Outwards - -	10,440	9,511	9,629	9,658	9,809

Gaols and Prisons.

51. From the report of the Acting Inspector of Prisons, which appears in the Blue Book, may be obtained full information on the subject of the working of the prison system of the Colony. The conclusions arrived at by the Acting Inspector of Prisons as to the results of the system are as follows:—

1. Recidivists are not on the decrease.

2. Female crime has increased since 1876, and the highest per-centage of female recidivists for the last six years appears in 1878.

3. The per-centage of juvenile recidivists has considerably decreased during the last two years. The Acting Inspector is, however, of opinion that this may be due to the fact that some of the youths who used to be sent to the juvenile prison are now committed to the adult prison in which a large number of young men were confined during 1878.

52. There is a slight decrease in the total number of committals during 1878.

53. The expenditure on the prisons during 1878 amounted to 6,428*l.*, against 7,885*l.* in 1877. This decrease is due mainly to the discharge of the prisoners convicted for offences committed in connexion with the riots of 1876.

Criminal Statistics.

54. An analytical table for the five years 1874–78 is appended.

55. The number of offences reported to the police in 1878 shows a decrease of 194, as compared with 1877, and was 196 below the average of the five years.

56. The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate was 10,450, 58·82 per thousand of the estimated population; and 1,783 (or 8·91 per thousand of the estimated population) above the average of the last five years.

——	Actual Number.						Per 1,000 of Population.*						Difference, 1877 and 1878.				Difference from Average.			
													Actual Number.		Per 1,000.		Actual Number.		Per 1,000.	
	Average during last 5 Years.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average of last 5 Years.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
The number of offences reported to the police -	4,768	5,190	4,740	4,575†	4,766	4,572	27·92	30·48	27·80	26·48	29·09	25·73	—	194	—	3·36	—	196	—	2·19
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates - -	8,667	8,056	8,666	7,043	9,123	10,450	49·91	47·31	50·83	40·77	51·81	58·82	1,327	—	7·01	—	1,783	—	8·91	—
The number of summary convictions:—																				
1. For offences against the person - -	2,043	1,643	1,790	1,993	2,298	2,493	11·76	9·65	10·50	11·53	13·06	14·03	195	—	·97	—	450	—	2·27	—
2. For prædial larceny -	830	897	909	788	884	672	4·79	5·26	5·33	4·56	5·02	3·78	—	212	—	1·24	—	158	—	1·01
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny -	452	480	537	334	418	481	2·59	2·81	3·15	1·93	2·37	2·70	63	—	·33	—	29	—	·11	—
4. For other offences‡ -	2,847	2,879	3,351	1,520	2,779	3,710	16·41	16·91	19·65	8·79	15·80	20·89	931	—	5·09	—	863	—	4·48	—
Total summary convictions - -	6,172	5,899	6,587	4,635	6,379	7,356	35·55	34·64	38·63	26·83	36·25	41·40	977	—	5·15	—	1,184	—	5·85	—
The number of offences in the superior courts:—																				
1. For offences against the person - -	42	21	35	50	57	46	·24	·12	·21	·29	·32	·26	—	11	—	·06	4	—	·02	—
2 For prædial larceny -	13	11	14	28	10	2	·07	·06	·08	·16	·05	·01	—	8	—	·04	—	11	—	·06
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny -	15	23	35	52	57	85	·29	·13	·21	·30	·32	·48	28	—	·16	—	35	—	·19	—
4. For other offences -	18	27	3	26	15	20	·1	·16	·01	·15	·08	·11	5	—	·03	—	2	—	·01	—
Total convictions in superior courts -	123	82	87	156§	139	153	·7	·48	·51	·90	·78	·86	14	—	·08	—	30	—	·16	—

——	Actual Number.						Per-centage on Gross Number of Cases.						Difference, 1877 and 1878.				Difference from Average.			
													Actual Number.		Per-centage of Cases.		Actual Number.		Per-centage of Cases.	
	Average during last 5 Years.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Average of last 5 Years.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
The number of persons acquitted:—																				
1. In the inferior courts	2,526	1,864	1,989	2,218	2,622	2,939	27·38	24·01	23·19	32·07	29·13	28·54	317	—	—	·59	413	—	1·16	—
2. In the superior courts	41	13	16	38‖	64	75	22·64	13·68	15·53	19·58	31·52	32·89	11	—	1·37	—	34	—	10·25	—

* Population, 1871 - Census - 162,042.
„ 1874 - Estimated - 170,253.
„ 1875 - „ - 170,468.
„ 1876 - „ - 172,729.
„ 1877 - „ - 175,874.
„ 1878 - „ - 177,639.

† Not including 447 persons summoned before a special commission in 1876, of whom 57 were discharged, 115 bailed, and 275 committed for trial.

‡ See notes to paragraphs 63 and 66.

§ This does not include the number of convictions at the special sessions of 1876, viz., 156.

‖ This does not include the number of acquittals at the special sessions of 1876, viz., 778.

BARBADOS.

Offences against the Person.

57. The number of convictions before the magistrates under this head shows a further increase, both actually and relatively to the estimated population.

58. There were 195 more convictions in 1878 for offences of this nature than in 1877, and the number for 1878 was 450 above the average of the last five years.

59. Referred to the estimated population, the increase is ·97 per 1,000 as compared with 1877, and 2·27 per 1,000 as compared with the average.

60. In the superior courts, on the other hand, the number of convictions under this head was 11 less than in 1877, three less than in 1876, and only four above the average of the five years.

Prædial Larceny.

61. This offence continues to show a tendency to decrease. The number of convictions in the magistrates' courts in 1878 was 212 below the number recorded in 1877, and 158 below the average of the five years, whilst the number of convictions in the Supreme Court shows a decrease of eight as compared with 1877, and of 11 as compared with the average.

Other Offences against Property.

62. Convictions for offences against property other than prædial larceny have been steadily increasing in the magistrates' courts during the last three years, and in the Supreme Court during the last five years. In the magistrates' courts the convictions for offences of this nature amounted in 1878 to 481 (2·70 per 1,000 of the population), 63 more than in 1877, and 29 above the average of the five years. In the Supreme Court the convictions amounted to 85; 28 above the number for 1877, and 35 above the average. Only one of these 85 convictions was for malicious injury to property; the rest were either for burglary, larceny, embezzlement, obtaining goods or money under false pretences, or for offences of a similar nature.

*Other Offences.**

63. Convictions by the magistrates for "other offences" were 931 above the number for 1877, and 863 above the average of the five years. The number of convictions for miscellaneous offences in the Supreme Court amounted to 20; 2 above the average, and 5 above the number for 1877.

64. The large increase under this head in the magistrates' courts is accounted for in the rural districts mainly by the increase

* In Bridgetown the convictions for "other offences" during 1878 were 2,003, against 1,774 in 1877, an increase of 429. This difference, the Bridgetown magistrates state, is mainly owing to the large increase in the number of complaints lodged by the parochial treasurer of the parish of St. Michael for unpaid parochial and highway taxes.

in the number of convictions under the Highway Acts, Petty Trespass Act, and Dog Licence Act; while in Bridgetown the increase appears to be partly due to greater strictness in enforcing the provisions of the Contagious Diseases Act, and mainly to a large increase in the number of prosecutions for unpaid parochial and highway taxes.

Convictions in general.

65. In the magistrates' courts the number of convictions was 977 above the number for 1877, and 1,184 above the average of the five years. Relatively to the estimated population, the total number of convictions (7,356) amounts to 41·40 per 1,000, or more than 1 in every 25 of the estimated population; whilst the increase is 5·15 per 1,000 compared with 1877, and 5·85 per 1,000 compared with the average of the last five years.

66. This increase is due mainly to the increase of convictions already adverted to under the head of "Other Offences." It should be stated, too, that many of the convictions in the magistrates' courts for offences against the person are for assaults of a trivial character.*

67. In the Supreme Court the number of convictions for 1878 was 113; 14 more than in 1877, 3 less than in 1876, 16 less than the sum of the convictions in 1874 and 1875, and 30 more than the average of the five years. The number of convictions under the head of offences against property other than prædial larceny during 1878 more than accounts for this increase.

Acquittals.

68. The number of acquittals in both the inferior and superior courts shows a steady increase. Compared with the total number of cases in each year, a decrease appears, however, in the magistrates' courts. In the Supreme Court the per-centage has steadily increased since 1875.

Cane Fires.

69. The accompanying table affords a comparison of the number of cane fires during the last three seasons, and during the latter half of the season 1875–76:—

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* It should not be lost sight of that parochial or highway taxes are recoverable in the police magistrates' courts as "servants' wages," *i.e.*, execution is issued, and if there are no effects to satisfy the execution, the defaulting taxpayer is liable to imprisonment according to the following scale:—

Up to 5*s.*	not exceeding one week.	5*l.* to 10*l.*	not exceeding three months.
5*s.* to 10*s.*	„ „ two weeks.	10*l.* to 30*l.*	„ „ four „
10*s.* to 2*l.*	„ „ one month.	30*l.* to 50*l.*	„ „ six „
2*l.* to 5*l.*	„ „ two months.	Over 50*l.*	„ „ one year.

Convictions under this head are returned by the magistrates as convictions for "other offences," and, especially in Bridgetown, add considerably to the gross return of convictions.

It is right to add that these executions for unpaid taxes are seldom enforced to the extent of imprisonment.

BARBADOS.

RETURN of CANE FIRES, 1st January 1876 to 30th June 1879.

Parish.	Number of Fires.					Number of Acres burnt.				
	Period from					Period from				
	1st January to 30th June 1876.	1st July 1876 to 30th June 1877.	1st July 1877 to 30th June 1878.	1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.	Average of last three periods.	1st January to 30th June 1876.	1st July 1876 to 30th June 1877.	1st July 1877 to 30th June 1878.	1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.	Average of last three periods.
St. Michael -	19	18	20	5	14⅓	71	29	43¼	18¾	30⅓
St. Philip - -	9	32	33	26	30⅓	38¾	76⅓	129¼	54⅓	86⅔
St. John - -	6	12	16	3	10⅓	20¼	48	92¾	7¾	49⅓
St. George - -	16	39	18	10	22⅓	60¾	92	58¾	18¼	56⅓
Christ Church -	5	21	40	16	25⅔	11¾	35½	76	31½	47⅝
St. Thomas -	20	11	15	4	10	33¼	19¾	35½	5½	20
St. James - -	4	7	4	5	5⅓	10¼	34¾	7	7¼	16⅛
St. Peter - -	4	10	7	4	7	11¼	30	20½	18¾	23
St. Lucy - -	8	13	17	5	11⅔	23¾	22½	43¾	8½	24⅝
St. Andrew -	6	13	14	—	9	17¾	21¾	18½	—	13⅓
St. Joseph - -	5	8	3	7	6	7¾	7¾	11	22½	13⅝
Total -	102	184	187	152	152	306½	417½	536¼	193¼	382½

70. It will be seen that in the season of 1877–78 there was a marked decrease in the number of cane fires. This has been attributed to the fact that an insurance office has undertaken to insure canes, and that the labourers are aware that the owner, when insured, will not lose anything by the destruction of the crop by fire.

71. But whether this view be correct or not, there is no doubt that the re-establishment of quiet is due mainly to the expressed determination of the Government to maintain order, and to the steps taken in the early part of 1877 to allay excitement, and at the same time to let it be known among the labouring population that any attempt to renew the disturbances of 1876 would be sternly repressed.

General Conclusions.

72. Minor offences against the person continue to increase. Serious offences against the person show a decrease as compared with 1877, but are still above the average. Prædial larceny shows a satisfactory decrease, but other offences against property continue to increase.

73. There is a large increase in the category of "other offences" cognizable in the magistrates' courts, and an encouraging diminution in the number of cane fires.

Hospitals and Asylums.

74. The following table contains a selection from the return of cases treated at the General Hospital. The figures for 1877 are inserted for comparison.

Nature of Case.	1877.				1878.			
	Number of Cases treated.	Deaths.	Percentage of total Deaths.	Percentage of Cases.	Number of Cases treated.	Deaths.	Percentage of total Deaths.	Percentage of Cases.
Ulcers	207	7	4·2	3·3	243	17	10·3	7·
Burns, injuries, &c.	204	9	5·4	4·4	212	13	7·9	6·1
Anæmia	140	7	4·2	5·	259	10	6·	3·8
Phthisis	127	41	27·7	32·3	80	25	15·2	31·2
Rheumatism	74	1	·6	1·3	83	25	—	—
Nephritis	6	1	·6	16·	22	9	5·4	40·9
Abscesses	50	2	1·2	4·	54	4	2·4	7·4
Heart disease	61	20	12·	32·6	71	21	12·8	29·5
Pneumonia	15	6	3·6	40·	10	5	3·	50·
Cancer	14	6	3·6	42·9	16	4	2·4	25·
Typhoid fever	10	5	2·1	50·	25	7	4·2	28·
Tetanus	9	7	4·2	77·8	13	13	7·9	100·
Debility	42	5	2·1	11·9	30	—	—	—

75. A new code of rules has been passed by the directors during the present year, and praiseworthy efforts have been made to improve the management of the institution.

76. The expenditure was 7,250*l.*, against 6,836*l.* for the year 1877.

77. No alteration of importance was made in the Lock Hospital, the Leper Asylum, or the Lunatic Asylum during 1878.

78. During 1879 a Bill has passed the Council and Assembly altering the constitution of the Lock Hospital Board, and it is hoped that in 1880 a commencement will be made in the direction of providing proper accommodation for lunatics.

79. No steps are reported as having been taken in 1878 for the improvement of the parochial almshouses. Reforms have, however, been initiated in some of the rural parishes since the appointment of the inspector of almshouses, hospitals, and asylums at the commencement of the present year.

Meteorological.

80. Meteorological observations were taken during the year 1878 at three stations in the Island, viz., at "Joes River House," in the parish of Saint Joseph, at an elevation of 430 feet above the level of the sea, and at "The Commercial Hall" and "Cora

BARBADOS.

Lynn," in the parish of Saint Michael, at elevations respectively of 17 feet and 25 feet above the sea level; the former station being on the north-east side of the Island and about two miles from the sea shore, and the two latter being on the south-west side of the Island, and about 11 miles distant from the former.

81. The mean readings of the barometer, corrected for height and reduced to 32° Fahrenheit, at 9 a.m. were 29·99 inches at "Joes River House," 30·01 inches at "The Commercial Hall," and 29·97 inches at "Cora Lynn," thus giving a mean of 29·99 inches for the Island; the highest readings being in the first four months of the year, averaging 30·04 inches, and the lowest readings in the last four months of the year averaging 29·93 inches; the extremes being 30·06 inches in February and 29·91 inches in October.

82. The mean approximate temperature of the air at Joes River House was 77° 3′, which is 2° higher than that of the previous 23 years; the highest reading, 86°, occurred in September, and the lowest reading, 69°, in January and March.

83. The mean dew point was 74° 1′, the highest being 76° 9′ in August, and the lowest 70° 9′ in January.

84. The solar radiation thermometer averaged 138° for the year, the highest readings being 140° in April, July, September, and October, and the lowest 132° in December.

85. The rainfall amounted to 78·22 inches, distributed over 208 days, and was 14 per cent. above the average of 25 years; while the evaporation for the last nine months of the year amounted to 34·92 inches.

86. The wind was chiefly from N.E., but was from S.E. on 11 days, and from S.W. on 15 days. The velocity was moderate, averaging only nine miles per hour for the year, the extremes being 12 miles in March and six miles in November.

87. There were thunder storms in April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and November. The average amount of cloud was 6·5, the range being 0–10, and 87 days were overcast.

(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Colonial Secretary.
Barbados, Dec. 10, 1879.

GRENADA.

No. 7.

Governor STRAHAN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Barbados, January 28, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Grenada for the year 1878, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's report thereon.

2. The delay which has taken place in the transmission of the Blue Book is, I understand, in a great measure attributable to the poverty of the printing resources of Grenada.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. C. STRAHAN,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the GRENADA BLUE BOOK, 1878.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c. &c.

The tables are set forth in full detail. There was an increase of export duty raised under Ordinance No. 4 for the purposes of immigration, which has met the necessary expenditure without in any way bearing heavily upon produce, the increased duty upon cocoa was ½*d.* upon every 10 lbs., while that upon sugar is only 1*d.* upon every 75 lbs.

All fees, except those payable to the Registrar in Chancery, are paid into the Treasury towards general revenue.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The chief sources of revenue and expenditure are hereunder detailed for the year 1878:—

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs -	15,304	19	1
Excise -	4,484	4	11
Licenses -	2,416	17	0
Sanitary -	329	7	4
Assessed taxes -	4,516	8	3
Rents - -	268	6	8
Fees - -	120	17	10
Fines - -	803	2	4
Post Office -	307	12	1
Escheat -	2,847	5	7
Stamp Act -	2,123	8	9
Miscellaneous -	555	16	11
	34,078	6	9

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Ecclesiastical -	1,447	16	2	Telegraph -	541	2	6
Judicial -	3,676	2	7	Non-effective -	94	8	4
Civil - -	4,023	9	1	Ice subsidy -	143	6	8
Education -	1,284	4	0	Steam navigation - -	30	0	0
Sanitary -	3,458	10	10	Escheat -	417	6	9
Poor relief -	3,177	5	6	Printing and stationery -	401	0	7
Police -	2,504	10	5	Militia -	129	8	8
Gaols and prisons -	1,079	2	11	Miscellaneous -	389	16	0
Works and repairs -	4,080	18	11				
Rates and taxes	138	16	10		27,405	10	5
Inland post -	388	3	8				

The only direct contribution from Imperial funds is the sum of 1,300*l.* per annum for payment of the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony.

The total revenue collected was 34,078*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, while the expenditure was only 27,405*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, showing a surplus of revenue over expenditure of 6,672*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, the increase under this head arose without any addition being made to the taxation, and indicates an improved commerce and better collection.

In connexion with the annexed statement it is interesting to note the following increase under the four heads, viz. :—

Revenue - - -	122 per cent.
Expenditure - - -	84 „
Imports - - -	32 „
Exports - - -	20 „

Revenue.

The increase under this head occurs without any material addition having been made to the taxation, and points to improved trade and better collection. The amount received in 1848 for assessed taxes was 1,579*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, against 4,516*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* last year, the difference in rates being only one and a half (1½) per cent. on valued rental of houses, and tenpence (10*d.*) on cottages.

The importation of most articles was larger in 1878, as shown hereunder :—

	1848.	1878.
Bread - -	57,127 lbs. - -	143,359 lbs.
Flour - -	6,272 barrels - -	13,305 barrels.
Rice - -	94,918 lbs. - -	704,270 lbs.
Brandy, gin, &c.	1,467 gallons - -	8,489 gallons.
Tobacco -	38,272 lbs. - -	66,971 lbs.
Lumber -	1,466,721 feet -	1,795,500 feet.

And the same increase is shown in other articles, but as the above have been given for no other reason than that they are in general use, I think them sufficient for my purpose.

Expenditure.

This increase is but a natural outcome of progression in the Colony. It is, however, in no means large when we consider that the population has increased forty-six (46) per cent. in the last 30 years (in 1848 it was 28,927, in 1878 42,235). And besides, services such as the stipendiary justices were paid for by the Imperial Government, and no provision was then made for providing medical aid to the people. The roads were left very much in their primitive condition, and I find that in that year there was actually no expenditure for the improvements to buildings.

Imports.

The actual increase in importations is much larger than appears simply by comparing the figures in the statement, for this reason, that before Barbados became the *entrepôt* of the Windward Islands, Grenada in no small degree furnished Trinidad, &c. wtth goods which had been brought into our market in the first instance. This has now ceased, and the figures for 1878 represent the value of importations which have all been used and consumed in the Colony.

Exports.

For the same reason as is given above, the value of exports has increased far above what appears at first sight by the statement. The 1848 figures include exports not the produce of the Colony, whilst the 1878 do not.

Again, there is no standard value at which the exports are set down, but they vary according to the ruling prices in the home markets.

Thus the exports stand highest in the years 1857 and 1858 because after the Crimean war sugar brought higher prices, and the quantities were calculated at the ruling prices at that time.

I give hereunder a comparison of the exportation of our staple products :—

	1848.	1878.
Sugar	6,071 hogsheads	2,580 hogsheads.
Cocoa	3,995 bags	24,394 bags.
Rum	2,156 puncheons	113 puncheons.
Spices	Nil.	50,800 lbs.
Cotton	10 bales	4·33½ bales.

Besides these, large increases appear in the exportation of other articles such as—

	1848.	1878.
Firewood	55 cords	1,396 cords.
Stock	5 head oxen	383 oxen.
„	—	2,037 goats.
„	—	872 sheep.
„	—	581 hogs.
„	—	10 horses.
Poultry	Nil.	893 dozen.
Turtle	„	947.
Starch	„	6,000 lbs.
Ground nuts	„	451 barrels.
„	„	216 bags.
Coffee	1 bag	1,530 lbs.

These last are specially given to show how in the year 1878 there existed industries among the labouring population that were not made use of 30 years ago.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, IMPORTS, and EXPORTS for the period from the year 1848 to 1878.

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Imports.			Exports.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1848	15,794	8	3	14,917	2	1	98,918	13	9	123,969	8	6
1849	13,666	7	9	12,777	19	0	101,054	3	11	104,228	0	0
1850	15,640	14	0	15,984	1	3	133,647	9	0	105,510	8	11
1851	16,956	17	8	15,484	16	11	158,930	13	4	134,766	11	5
1852	17,365	14	4	16,894	14	7	149,718	14	5	131,940	16	5
1853	15,038	12	11	17,130	14	11	139,060	18	4	123,955	16	8
1854	15,266	8	1	18,044	4	4	112,410	15	1	138,397	3	11
1855	14,003	3	3	15,924	3	6	85,779	19	10	91,343	16	4
1856	16,451	0	11	15,453	19	0	78,813	0	10	105,458	11	2
1857	17,487	14	0	13,544	17	7	109,061	13	3	172,217	16	7
1858	17,660	5	9	15,240	11	7	103,165	5	3	185,613	1	10
1859	16,947	14	11	19,403	7	0	124,660	7	8	131,307	8	6
1860	17,353	9	3	19,719	0	3	126,206	17	1	125,502	0	0
1861	16,728	1	5	18,530	12	11	114,252	1	5	112,463	19	3
1862	18,397	7	5	17,571	8	0	112,518	11	2	87,860	16	9
1863	19,105	5	10	19,601	14	5	90,074	16	8	112,477	7	10
1864	20,095	8	10	17,234	13	5	121,313	19	2	153,214	15	6
1865	20,341	12	2	19,756	10	4	114,111	0	6½	118,045	11	0
1866	21,139	16	0	21,203	17	5	122,255	10	4	113,237	5	8
1867	19,983	13	9	25,686	19	1	111,917	17	10	116,199	10	11
1868	21,740	19	7	21,920	9	0	108,766	18	9	103,895	5	3
1869	23,140	14	0	21,265	12	8	176,477	6	2	121,991	14	7
1870	23,106	1	1	20,824	2	2	104,474	19	10	127,184	10	10
1871	22,879	18	2	21,140	13	7	132,466	18	11	153,920	16	5
1872	24,527	8	2	25,981	15	1	142,435	16	1½	145,427	4	5
1873	25,481	12	6	27,224	15	10	133,061	3	0	147,519	13	10
1874	23,404	0	0	25,730	0	0	106,637	0	0	158,866	0	0
1875	26,569	12	9	25,016	15	6	118,385	4	0	171,331	10	10
1876	26,286	8	10	26,723	17	10	114,860	19	3½	178,583	6	11
1877	29,084	8	5	29,581	17	3	127,204	18	0	145,906	7	0
1878	34,078	6	9	27,405	10	5	130,687	16	6	149,207	18	7

Public Debt.

The public debt is as follows :—9,000*l.* being balance of a loan of 10,000*l.*, contracted in the early part of last year at 5 per cent. interest for immigration purposes, this amount is repayable in 10 years by yearly instalments of 1,000*l.*, with the interest due thereon.

One thousand pounds borrowed this year at 5 per cent. interest on account of the water fund, to aid in the introduction of water into the town of St. George. This amount is repayable in 20 years.

Military Expenditure.

A small expense of 123*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* has been incurred in bringing non-commissioned officers of the line from Barbados to drill a volunteer force which has been raised this year, and to meet other incidentals which are explained in the return. The strength of the force is given in detail. It is armed with the Snider rifle, and has obtained a very creditable state of efficiency both in drill and rifle practice, through which it has passed a regular course.

Public Works.

Roads.—Were Macadamised about two miles, with general repairs to roads extending over 96 miles.

Buildings—General repairs were made and the Colony hospital of St. George's much improved. Built new quarters for the dispenser, repaired lunatic asylum, and executed extensive repairs to all the public buildings. Altered marine cottage so as to convert it into a yaw's hospital. Built the district hospital at St. Andrew's.

Legislation.

There were 21 Ordinances passed in this year, the principal of which were consequent upon the change of Constitution from a representative Chamber and Council to a Crown Colony with Executive and Legislative Councils.

Education.

The system is denominational, and an annual grant is made by the Legislature of 1,200*l.* which is divided amongst 29 schools, viz., 14 Anglican, 5 Wesleyan, 10 Roman Catholics, with a total of 3,421 scholars on the school rolls. The voluntary contributions amounted to 208*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* and the total cost of the schools was 1,479*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* There are also 19 private schools in the Island, but the tuition is poor, and a better system and class of masters much needed, as the youth of Grenada are very intelligent, and with proper training much might be done for them.

GRENADA.

I have had a thorough inspection of the schools, and hope to be able to adopt a better system, which will be reported on for 1879.

Legislative Council.

Upon the death of the Hon. Wm. Shears and John Langdon, Mr. James Bannerman, J.P., and Mr. Francis Batt were nominated provisional Members of the Council and have since been confirmed by the Queen.

Civil Establishment.

There were no changes of importance this year except that of Mr. D. G. Ganaway to be auditor vice Griffiths promoted, Gold Coast, which has received the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Population.

There has been an increase during 1878 of 1·02 per cent. notwithstanding an unusually sickly season. Dr. Massiah in his report to the Registrar-General states, "A general illness, pre- "vailing mostly from blood poisoning, the sequel or adjunct of "fever, dysentery, or malaria, therefore under the head of "zymotic diseases there was in 1878 a marked increase in deaths "from eruptive fevers, in 1877 such deaths amounted to 73 or "5·9 per cent. and in 1878 to 149 or 11·38 per cent."

The census of 1st May 1871 showed - - -	37,684
Estimated population 31st December 1877 - -	41,355
Natural increase in 1878 1·02 per cent. - -	422
Immigration Indian labourers during the year -	458
Total estimated population for 1878 - -	42,235

Equal to 318 to the square mile.

The highest death rate for the year was 3·16 per cent., while that of births was 4·18.

Imports and Exports.

IMPORTS.

	1877.			1878.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
United Kingdom - - - -	60,201	3	2	57,431	5	11
British North America - - -	1,270	13	2	1,491	12	5
British West Indies - - - -	46,724	0	2	53,549	1	8
United States - - - -	15,268	11	2	14,724	11	4
Foreign countries - - -	3,746	10	4	3,489	15	8
	127,210	18	0	130,686	7	0
				127,210	18	0
Imports in excess, 1878 - - - - -				3,475	9	0

EXPORTS.

	1877.			1878.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - - - -	122,821	4	10	130,775	17	6
British West - - - - -	16,042	9	1	14,534	5	10
United States - - - -	65	6	8	—		
Foreign countries - - - -	6,976	6	5	3,947	15	3
	145,905	7	0	149,258	2	7
				145,905	7	0
Exports in excess, 1878 - - - - - -				3,352	15	7

By these figures it will be seen that the imports in 1878 exceeded those for 1877 by 3,475*l.* 9*s.*, while the exports for the same years showed an increase on 1878 of 3,352*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, thus showing how progressive the imports were upon increased cultivation and produce.

Shipping.

The shipping and tonnage was increased in 1878, and it is now under the consideration of the Executive whether it is not desirable to make Grenada a free port by the abolition of tonnage dues, and thus afford increased facilities for vessels seeking a market to call here.

A project for steam communication along the Leeward coast is still under consideration and will come under review upon next year's report.

Agriculture.

There has been during the year a considerable acreage of land taken in for cocoa, which has become the staple produce of the Colony. The cane cultivation is rapidly declining and less sugar made from year to year. Many sugar estates are changing hands, and the metayer system is becoming more general than it has hitherto been.

The following is a return of the principal items of produce exported from the Colony during the last two years:

Produce.	1877.	1878.
Pounds of sugar, unmanufactured - -	27,849,981	5,424,881
„ coffee - - - -	6,304	9,871
„ cocoa - - - -	918,042	1,817,813
„ cotton - - - -	74,438	69,088
„ Tous-les Mois - - -	Nil.	Nil
„ arrowroot - - - -	„	20
Gallons of rum - - - -	89,931	47,360
„ molasses - - - -	9,128	7,448
„ shrub - - - -	Nil.	Nil.
„ lime juice - - -	„	10

GRENADA.

Gaols and Prisons.

The daily average number of prisoners in the common gaol was 47, being somewhat less than last year, the cost of which amounted to 1,079*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

There was, however, some further expenditure upon the district prisons which will be reported on in 1879.

Upon the whole the report of the Attorney-General on the criminal statistics of the Colony may be regarded as favourable when compared with those of 1877.

Hospitals.

These institutions were much improved during 1878, and considerable additions were made, which met with the approval of his Excellency Major Strahan, C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, on his official inspection.

A new detached quarter for a dispenser was built, while the Coolie depôt was greatly improved and very fine wards provided for them, for male and female, perhaps for situation, extent, and ventilation, none better in the West Indies.

A yaw's hospital has also been established, owing to the conversion of an old government building which was available.

A district hospital was also built for the accommodation of the Coolie immigrants in St. Andrew's parish at a cost of 245*l.* 10*s.* The average number in the Colony hospital daily was 85, and maintained at a cost of 1*s.* 2*d.* per head or a total of 1,869*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* for the year.

I desire to express my satisfaction at the manner in which Dr. Orgias, the surgeon in charge of the hospitals, performs his duties, and the attentive and zealous manner in which he discharges them, having had an unusual amount of sickness during the year, and when called upon to render public services elsewhere, owing to the scarcity or illness of the other medical officers, and often having to travel many miles distant, over difficult roads, from his district, cheerfully afforded the Government his assistance, no matter at what labour to himself and even loss from his extensive private practice.

Lunatic, Leper Asylums, and Poor House.

These institutions have been very carefully superintended, and important repairs have also been effected to render the accommodation more complete and comfortable for the inmates.

The daily average number treated in the asylum during the year was 26, but it is proposed to receive other patients from Tobago and St. Vincent, which will largely increase this number, but the accommodation is ample, and the situation for such an institution almost unsurpassed. The reports of the medical officer, Dr. Massiah, which are appended, will speak for his attention to these suffering people, and it is most interesting to see the manner in which they appreciate his consideration and kindness.

Nearly all the recommendations made by Dr. Massiah have been carried out with the sanction of his Excellency Major Strahan, C.M.G., Governor-in-Chief, and the approval of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, except the enclosure of the lands, which will take time and incur considerable expense. Moreover, it is necessary to establish a survey of these lands for which I have already made arrangements.

I am happy to be able to add that the condition of these institutions and their management have always received the approbation of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief on his official visits to Grenada. My remarks with respect to the diligence and care of Dr. Orgias, not only to his hospital but to the public service when called upon, apply equally to Dr. Massiah.

General Remarks.

I am happy to be able to state that the financial condition of the Colony is very satisfactory, and exhibits a progress and development which will bear favourable comparison with our neighbouring Colonies.

Immigration from India was renewed this year, and a loan of 10,000*l.* was raised in Grenada at 5 per cent. for the introduction of Coolies. In March the ship "Hermione" landed 458 souls equal to 401½ statute adults. On arrival they were allotted to the several managers and proprietors of estates upon whose earnest application they were introduced.

In some cases these allotments did not prove fortunate, owing, on the one hand, to an imperfect knowledge of how to deal with Asiatic labour, and on the other a bad rainy season, which was very unhealthy and from which the Coolies suffered before they had time to be acclimatised, but not more than all other classes of the community, and the Creole and white suffered equally; however, the actual mortality amongst all classes for 1878 was only 3·16 per cent., and this rate was not exceeded amongst the Coolies.

There were other causes at work which deprived the Coolies of the protection of some of those who had indentured them, and they were left in some cases to but indifferent treatment, and thus with their own sickness their condition was aggravated; however, the close of the year has found them at work, in good dwellings, earning fair wages, and living contentedly, with medical attendance and district hospitals provided for them.

(Signed) R. W. HARLEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Government House, Grenada,
31st December 1879.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 8.

Governor STRAHAN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Barbados, January 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Tobago for the year 1878, which I received only on the 24th instant, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's report thereon.

2. The claim of the Admiralty for the sum of 112*l.*, referred to under the head of expenditure in Mr. Gore's report, was withdrawn in November 1878, as will be seen by reference to your Despatch of the 26th November 1878.

3. I have forwarded the explanations offered with regard to the delay in the preparation of this Blue Book in my Despatch of the 26th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. C. STRAHAN,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Tobago,
December 24, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Tobago for 1878, together with my report upon it.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

The following are the changes and additions which were made under these heads:—

The tax on "estates, lands, and tenements" was increased in 1878 by 1*s.* in the pound, yielding 2,625*l.*, against 1,937*l.* in 1877.

The dog tax, which had been allowed to fall into all but abeyance, and which only gave 11*l.* in 1877, was amended and enforced, and produced no less than 106*l.*

The export duty was re-imposed, and yielded 991*l.*, whilst a duty of 3*s.* a gallon was placed on rum, which during the latter end of the year added 358*l.* towards the general revenue.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

Thanks to the assistance of the above additional taxation, which in the aggregate produced 1,742*l.*, the revenue of 1878 reached 13,985*l.*, against 13,310*l.* in the preceding year; but the unfortunate falling off in the import duties, altogether amounting in

1878 to 1,597*l.*, as compared with the imports of 1877, rendered it expedient, in the latter half of the year, to negotiate a loan of 1,000*l.*, in order to extinguish some of the liabilities of the two preceding years, as it was soon apparent that the additional taxation imposed to pay off these arrears must be devoted to the current expenditure of the Colony.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1878 exceeded that of the preceding year by 1,223*l.*, but included in this excess will be found the following liabilities of former years, which were paid off: clothing furnished in 1877 to volunteers, 558*l.*; Crown agents on account of advances, 520*l.*; Admiralty, 112*l.*; whilst the maintenance of a detachment of troops for 10 months of the year caused an abnormal expenditure of 833*l.*

Savings were, however, effected upon the following items: on salaries to the amount of 167*l.*, whilst by increased economy in establishments a further reduction of 365*l.* was carried out. In spite, however, of the increased taxation, loan, and efforts at economising, the end of the year found the Colony still 2,530*l.* in debt, and with gloomy prospects for the future, as the staple produce was selling in the home markets at unremunerative prices, and as the Island crop of 1878 was estimated at 1,000 tons short of the ordinary average.

During the year wages were scarce, the estates generally "giving days," *i.e.*, not employing their labourers more than half time. Owing, too, to the almost universal system of carrying on cultivation by means of advances from consignees, estates expenses were cut down in every direction, as capitalists at home were naturally unwilling to advance money on such unsatisfactory security as the sugar market presented.

Local Revenues.

No local revenues are levied in Tobago.

Public Debt.

In August 1878 1,000*l.* was borrowed, at 7 per cent. interest, to pay off certain of the most pressing claims against the Colony. There is no other public debt.

Military Expenditure.

On the 2nd of October 1878 the company of the 2nd West India Regiment which had been stationed in Tobago since the riots of May 1876 was withdrawn. By the removal of this detachment an expenditure at the rate of about 1,000*l.* a year has been brought to an end.

Volunteers.

There was no falling off, either in the numbers or zeal of the volunteers, and the annual competition for prizes on the Queen's

Tobago.

birthday was closely contested. The inducements offered to volunteers (under the Ordinance 1878) have had a very good effect, and the musters have generally been better attended.

Public Works.

No public works of any importance were undertaken, and no new roads or bridges were constructed.

Legislation.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed in the session of 1878, of which the following are the most important :—

No. I. "The Ticket-of-Leave Ordinance," which has enabled me to relieve the gaol of no less than 33 well-conducted convicts, none of whom, I am happy to say, have been sent back for subsequent misconduct.

It was very satisfactory to me to be able to state in my speech at the opening of the legislative session of 1879 that not only had this measure tended considerably to reduce the expenditure under the head of "Prisons," but that it had afforded a great incentive to the convicts themselves to behave well and to conform to discipline, in so much so, that the visiting justice reports :—

"Petty offences against gaol discipline have decreased con-
"siderably, and there is a strenuous effort observable amongst
"those now incarcerated, and notably of those connected with
"the riots, 1876, to obtain the benefits of 'The Ticket-of-Leave
"Ordinance.'" Again, he says :—"It may not be out of place
"for me to mention that, of those who have had tickets granted
"to them and resident in the districts over which I have pre-
"sided and now preside, I can testify to their conduct being
"marked by habits of industry and a general desire to behave
"themselves in a law-abiding manner."

No. II. "Repeal of the Declaratory Act."—This measure was introduced to remove doubts with reference to the operation of the Imperial statutes in Tobago which had been declared by a local Act passed in 1841 to be in force where applicable to the circumstances of the Colony, but with which local legislation conflicted.

No. VI. "Dog Tax."—Not only was this tax collected in the proportion of 106*l.* in 1878 to 11*l.* in 1877, but it was paid quite as readily as any other tax, although it had been allowed, for more than five years, to remain almost a dead letter upon the statute book. It was with much satisfaction that I also called special attention to this fact in my speech at the opening of the legislative session of 1879, because a neighbouring press had for some time previously persistently misrepresented the lower orders in Tobago as a lawless and turbulent people.

No. VII. "The Harbour Master's Ordinance."—For some years before my arrival the harbour master (who was paid by fees) had been allowed the unlimited control over the annual votes for the following services: "Lighthouse, Beacons, and Buoys," and

had not been called upon to account for the expenditure under these several headings. The Harbour Master's Ordinance was therefore introduced to remove these irregularities, and the harbour master was placed on a fixed salary.

No. VIII. "The Excise Ordinance."—In view of the deficit of 2,000*l.* disclosed by the auditor's statement on the first day of the session of 1878, the Legislative Council passed an Excise Ordinance, which it was estimated would yield some 1,400*l.* per annum. This estimate has proved far too high, as the duty only yields about 900*l.* a year. The staff provided for the collection of the duty has therefore been gradually reduced.

No. IX. "Liquor Licenses."—This Ordinance was passed in concert with the Excise Ordinance, in order that, by reducing the very high rates hitherto imposed for liquor licenses, this inducement for the illicit sale of rum might be removed.

No. XI. "Marshal and Postmaster."—Advantage was taken of the resignation of the postmaster to consolidate these offices, and to increase by 50*l.* the emoluments of that of the marshal, with the prospect of making a slight addition to the revenue arising from the balance of the postmaster's fees.

No. XII. "Postal Ordinance."—This Ordinance has not been brought into operation as regards the inland postal service, on account of the falling off in the revenue, which rendered it inexpedient to risk any expenditure which was not certain to prove remunerative.

No. XIV. "Married Women's Ordinance."—This Ordinance guarantees to married women their savings in any employment in which they may be engaged separately from their husbands. It was introduced shortly after my arrival in Tobago, as several cases had come to my knowledge in which a husband who had deserted his wife and family for years had returned from Trinidad or some other neighbouring Colony to take possession of her savings and of any other little property she might have acquired by her industry during his absence.

Council.

On the 16th of June the Treasurer and Controller of Customs, Mr. Charles A. Berkeley (*ex officio* a member of the Council), died whilst an Ordinance was in progress to enable him to retire on a pension, after over 22 years' service in the Colony.

It is also my duty to record the decease, on the 23rd of December following, of Mr. James Henry Keens, C.M.G., who held a dormant commission as Administrator of this Government, and who had for many years enjoyed the confidence of successive Secretaries of State.

Civil Establishment.

The passing of the Excise Ordinance, "No. 8 of 1878," created three new appointments, but as the tax fell short of the amount anticipated, the collection was enforced by two officers instead of

TOBAGO.

three, whilst it is in contemplation further to reduce the expenditure under this head by uniting the duties of these two officers in the person of the Inspector of Inland Revenue Officers.

Pensions.

No new pensions were created.

Population.

Owing to the low prices of produce, a good many able-bodied labourers were unable to obtain continuous labour in the Colony, and therefore left for Trinidad during the latter part of the year. I had no means of ascertaining to what extent this exodus went on, as a large number of people left Tobago for Trinidad in open boats which ply between the Islands; but from Mason Hall and from other villages in the Leeward district a considerable number of young men have, I regret to say, emigrated.

Education.

Looking to my report in the Blue Book of 1877, it would seem as if the number of the children on the registers for that year, viz., 2,248, had all but reached its highest figure, as in 1878 there was only an increase of 38 scholars, whilst the average attendance for the December of 1878 only exceeded that of 1877 by 18. The numbers presented for examination are, however, more satisfactory, as they show an increase of no less than 294 candidates. Appended will be found the report for 1878 of the Inspector of Schools.

Grants of Land.

No grants of land were made in 1878.

Gaols and Prisons.

The statistics sent home under Lord Kimberley's circular despatch of 30th January 1872 show a diminution in the number of convicts, and consequently upon the expenditure under this head.

General Remarks.

The health of the Colony during 1878 has been generally very good, the monthly reports from the district medical officers only showing the usual increase of fevers and colds during the wet season. Vaccination not being compulsory is only very partially carried out, but fortunately there has been no visitation of small-pox since 1861, and even then comparatively but few persons suffered.

Owing to the low price of produce in the home markets and to the short crop of 1878, the expenditure on the sugar estates throughout the Colony was considerably reduced, and many of

the labouring population left Tobago to seek temporary employment in Trinidad, so that trade in Scarborough was very dull during the year, and importers had materially to reduce their operations. TOBAGO.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS FRED. GORE,
Lieut.-Governor, Tobago.

His Excellency Major Geo. C. Strahan, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.
Governor in Chief.

Enclosure in No. 8.

SIR, Cliff Cottage, January 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith for his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor Statistical Tables showing the results of the examination I made of the schools of this Colony in 1878; being my third annual examination since the schools have been under Government supervision.

1. The schools were increased last year by four. Two of the Anglican Denomination, viz. the Hope and Saint John's, were received, and Moriah and Montgomery (Moravian) were divided, thus making the total number of the schools receiving Government aid 24, as under:—

Ten Anglican, viz.:—

1. Scarborough.
2. The Whim.
3. The Hope.
4. Plymouth.
5. St. Patrick's
6. Les Coteaux.
7. Parlatuvier.
8. St. Mary's.
9. St. Paul's.
10. St. John's.

Seven Moravian, viz.:—

1. Montgomery, Juvenile.
2. Ditto. Middle.
3. Ditto. Infant.
4. Bethesda.
5. Moriah, Juvenile.
6. Ditto, Infant.
7. Bon Accord.

Seven Wesleyan, viz.:—

1. Scarborough.
2. Goldsborough.
3. Mount St. George.
4. Ebenezer.
5. Mount Stewart.
6. Mason Hall.
7. Castara.

TOBAGO.

The examination of the Mount Stewart School could not be held owing to the illness of the teacher. The results of the examination of 1877 were therefore taken for 1878.

The Statistical Tables appended hereto are :—

1. Return of number, attendance, examinates, &c.
2. Return of attainments and premiums.
3. Rank of schools according to merit, showing value of each school and average value of each pupil.
4. Comparative Table, showing increase or decrease in the schools between the years 1876, 1877, and 1878, the three years they have been under Government supervision.

Moriah and Montgomery being the only places where infants are taught in separate schools, it will be necessary in order to ascertain their status in comparison with other schools where no such distinction is made to take the mean average between their juvenile (or select) and their infant schools.

The building where the Scarborough Anglican School is held is still in a wretched condition; owing to which, and to the teacher not having been paid a portion of his salary, last year the school fell off considerably.

I would urge on the Government the desirability of paying the teachers monthly instead of quarterly as is now done. This I consider a matter of great importance. To do so, I would recommend that the fees for attendance be calculated by that of the previous year. By so doing the Government will be able to fix its education estimates for the ensuing year to the very penny, the officer will be saved the tedious and dilatory labour of calculating the fluctuating capitation grant from information sent to him, very frequently, long after the expiration of the quarter, and the teachers will be able to receive their school grant, premiums for attainments, and capitation fees altogether, and punctually at the end of each month, a matter of utmost importance to them, for without punctual and early payments how can they be expected to do their work with heartiness or efficiency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. J. FRASER,
Inspector of Schools.

Honourable H. L. Byng,
Colonial Secretary.

RETURN of NUMBER, ATTENDANCE, EXAMINATES, &c.

Name and Denomination of School.	Highest Number on Register.	Average Attendance, September Quarter.	Average Attendance, December Quarter.	Attendance on Day of Examination.	Number eligible for Examination.	Number presented for Examination.	Number eligible for Examination in Higher Subjects.
ANGLICAN.							
1. Scarborough - -	111	73	66	90	90	77	
2. The Whim - -	83	48	57	80	38	38	
3. The Hope - -	56	35	44	51	34	30	
4. Plymouth - -	113	74	84	88	68	58	
5. St. Patrick's - -	102	59	63	62	36	31	
6. Les Coteaux - -	150	84	114	138	101	100	
7. Parlartuvier - -	43	29	22	23	18	18	
8. St. Mary's - -	70	61	51	67	48	36	
9. St. Paul's - -	70	43	54	64	52	45	
10. St. John's - -	50	30	35	44	38	38	
Total - - -	848	536	590	707	523	471	—
MORAVIAN.							
1. Montgomery (juvenile)	102	74	74	82	87	80	1
2. Montgomery (middle)	85	77	70	80	77	64	
3. Montgomery (infant) -	125	62	73	80	51	42	
4. Moriah (juvenile) -	109	82	98	108	108	107	7
5. Moriah (infant) -	157	97	103	135	85	82	
6. Bethesda - -	64	33	33	38	41	35	
7. Bon Accord - -	103	44	46	56	24	19	
Total - - -	745	469	497	579	473	529	8
WESLEYAN.							
1. Scarborough - -	162	78	93	108	89	77	
2. Goldsborough - -	89	42	54	64	49	42	
3. Mount St. George -	130	80	90	123	97	90	
4. Ebenezer - -	73	43	41	47	39	36	
5. Mount Stewart* -	70	35	53	58	51	48	
6. Mason Hall - -	91	56	50	55	53	45	
7. Castara - - -	788	40	42	53	34	33	
Total - - -	693	374	423	508	412	371	—
Grand total - -	2,286	1,379	1,510	1,794	1,408	1,371	8

* Examination of 1877.

RETURN of ATTAINMENTS

Name and Denomination of School.	Reading Passes.				Dictation Passes.				Writing Passes.	Arithmetic Passes.			
	1st Grade.	2nd Grade.	3rd Grade.		1st Grade.	2nd Grade.	3rd Grade		Taught in 2nd Grade only.	1st Grade.	2nd Grade.	3rd Grade.	
	Alphabet to Monosyllables.	Book 2 and New Testament, well.	The Bible, any School Book, or Newspaper.	Total.	On Slates Words of One Syllable.	On Slates from Reading Book.	The Bible, any School Book, or Newspaper.	Total.	Large and Round Hand.	Including Simple Addition.	Including Long Division.	Irish, to page 59.	Total.
ANGLICAN,													
1. Scarborough -	34	20	13	67	26	16	10	52	44	22	11	10	43
2. The Whim -	12	11	5	28	9	2	4	15	11	8	4	2	14
3. The Hope -	14	11	4	29	11	6	2	19	14	13	6	1	20
4. Plymouth -	38	22	5	65	19	18	4	41	25	13	5	7	25
5. St. Patrick's -	14	6	6	26	19	5	4	28	16	19	10	—	29
6. Les Coteaux -	59	25	26	110	19	39	7	65	60	45	6	6	57
7. Parlatuvier -	6	3	3	12	3	1	2	6	4	4	2	—	6
8. St. Mary's -	15	12	4	31	6	8	6	20	10	12	2	—	14
9. St. Paul's -	13	24	4	41	11	7	5	23	19	5	16	5	26
10. St. John's -	21	12	—	33	16	4	—	20	17	16	1	—	17
Total - -	226	146	70	442	139	106	44	289	220	157	63	31	251
MORAVIAN.													
1. Montgomery, juvenile -	5	46	29	80	38	34	8	80	69	49	23	7	79
2. Montgomery, middle - -	32	29	—	61	31	3	—	34	10	39	—	—	39
3. Montgomery, infant - -	24	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Moriah, juvenile - -	17	49	34	100	31	36	10	77	71	45	19	15	79
5. Moriah, infant	50	21	—	71	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	15
6. Bethesda -	8	4	12	24	1	5	11	17	16	10	7	2	19
7. Bon Accord -	11	5	—	16	7	—	—	7	4	13	—	—	13
Total - -	147	154	75	376	108	78	29	215	170	171	49	24	244
WESLEYAN.													
1. Scarborough -	15	26	26	65	21	21	13	55	39	16	22	7	45
2. Goldsborough	13	9	13	35	15	8	1	24	14	12	8	4	24
3. Mount St. George - -	27	18	19	64	22	26	8	56	40	30	21	8	59
4. Ebenezer -	14	10	7	31	12	7	3	22	13	16	1	2	19
5. Mount Stewart, examination 1877 -	21	14	2	37	6	7	1	14	6	20	2	—	22
6. Mason Hall -	11	19	12	42	10	11	2	23	8	19	3	10	32
7. Castara - -	8	9	15	32	4	4	10	18	12	15	5	5	25
Total - -	109	105	94	306	90	84	38	212	132	128	65	36	226

SUMMARY of the PASSES gained

Denomination.	Total Reading Passes.	Total Dictation Passes.	Total Writing Passes.	Total Arithmetic Passes.
Anglican - -	442	289	220	251
Moravian - -	376	215	170	244
Wesleyan - -	306	212	132	226
Grand total - -	1,124	716	422	721

and PREMIUMS.

Extra Subjects of 3rd Grade.					Total Passes in all the Elementary Secular Subjects.	Catechetical Religious Knowledge.	Higher Subjects.						Total in all the Subjects.	Total Value of Passes.
Grammar. Orthography and Etymology with easy Parsing.	Geography. Irish, to page 29.	History. Bible and Rudiments of English History.	Recitations. Prose or Poetry from any English Author.	Total.		Verbal Knowledge of Lord's Prayer, Creed, and Decalogue.	Arithmetic. Irish, pages 87 to 102.	Grammar. Orthography, Etymology, and Syntax with higher Parsing.	Geography. Same as 3rd Grade with Book V.	Composition.	Vocal Music.	Total.		£ s. d.
5	1	3	36	45	251	45							296	4 10 6
2	—	1	20	23	91	15							106	1 13 8
2	—	4	21	27	109	32							141	2 1 0
9	—	6	21	36	192	30							222	3 6 0
7	—	2	11	20	119	26							145	2 0 4
11	4	5	42	62	354	49							403	6 2 6
2	1	3	11	17	45	8							53	0 17 10
3	3	6	36	48	123	30							153	2 10 2
3	3	4	50	60	169	33							202	3 9 4
—	—	—	34	34	121	27							148	2 1 8
44	12	34	282	372	1,574	295	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,869	28 13 0
14	10	15	29	68	376	70	1	1	1	1	1	5	451	7 4 1
—	—	—	16	16	160	55	—	—	—				215	2 8 2
—	—	—	7	7	31	35	—	—	—				66	0 13 4
20	22	54	42	138	465	105	1	7	6		2	16	586	10 1 10
—	—	—	—	—	86	74	—	—	—				160	1 10 2
9	—	12	16	37	113	13	—	—	—				126	2 7 0
1	—	—	2	3	43	13	—	—	—				56	0 11 10
44	32	81	112	269	1,274	365	2	8	7	1	3	21	1,660	24 16 5
24	8	20	29	81	275	46							321	5 15 6
9	5	11	22	47	144	34							178	2 17 10
6	5	17	41	69	288	56							344	5 9 6
4	2	5	23	34	119	16							135	2 3 0
3	1	—	24	28	107	35							142	1 18 10
8	1	6	15	30	135	31							166	2 12 6
5	8	8	24	45	132	28							160	2 16 8
59	30	67	178	334	1,200	246	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,446	23 13 10

by each DENOMINATION.

Total Passes in extra Subjects of 3rd Grade.	Total Passes in Elementary Subjects.	Total Passes in Catechetical Religious Knowledge.	Total Passes in higher Subjects.	Grand Total.
372	1,574	295	—	1,869
269	1,274	365	21	1,660
334	1,200	246	—	1,456
975	4,048	906	21	4,985

TOBAGO.

COMPARATIVE TABLE, showing Increase or Decrease in the Schools between the Years 1876, 1877, and 1878.

(The Three Years they have been under Government Supervision.)

Returns from Registers, &c.	1876.	1877.	Increase on 1876.	1878.	Increase on 1877.	Remarks.
Total number on registers	1,895	2,248	353	2,286	38	
Average attendance, September quarter	1,070	1,318	248	1,379	61	
Average attendance, December quarter	914	1,492	578	1,510	18	
Present on day of examination	1,047	1,733	686	1,794	61	
Eligible as examinates	796	1,269	473	1,408	139	
Number presented for examination	699	1,077	378	1,371	294	
Number eligible for higher subjects	1	12	11	8	4	Decrease.
Passes.						
Reading, total passes	553	974	421	1,124	150	
Dictation do.	305	579	274	716	137	
Writing do.	111	406	295	522	406	
Arithmetic do.	310	618	308	696	78	
Extra subjects of 3rd grade, total passes	295	742	447	975	233	
All the elementary (above) subjects, total passes	1,574	3,319	1,745	4,048	729	
Catechetical religious knowledge, total passes	374	790	416	906	116	
Higher subjects, total passes	4	38	34	21	17	Decrease.
Grand total	1,952	4,147	2,195	4,975	828	
Amount of Premiums.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Anglican schools	9 8 0	26 0 8	16 12 8	28 13 0	2 12 4	
Moravian do.	9 5 2	17 19 2	8 14 0	24 16 5	6 17 3	
Wesleyan do.	9 12 4	17 17 10	8 5 6	23 13 10	5 16 0	Mount Stewart school not examined, 1878.
Total	28 5 6	61 17 8	33 12 2	77 3 3	15 5 7	

RANK of SCHOOLS according to MERIT, showing Value of each School and Average Value of each Pupil.

Name of School.	Attendance.	Gross Premium.		Average Premium per Scholar.	Minister in Charge.
		Sterling.	Dollars.		
		£ s. d.	$ c.	Cents.	
1. Moriah (juvenile)	109	10 1 10	48 44	44·44	Rev. S. L. Thaelar.
2. Montgomery (juvenile)	102	7 4 1	34 58	33·90	Rev. F. Uh.
3. St. Paul's	70	3 9 4	16 64	23·77	Rev. E. R. Smart.
4. Mount St. George	130	5 9 6	26 28	20·21	Rev. A. H. Aguilar.
5. St. John's	50	2 1 8	10 00	20·00	Rev. E. R. Smart.
6. Scarborough (Anglican)	111	4 10 6	21 72	19·57	Rev. Dr. Engledow.
7. Les Coteaux	150	6 2 6	29 40	19·60	Rev. E. A. Turpin.
8. Bethesda	64	2 7 0	11 28	17·62	Rev. F. Uh.
9. The Hope	56	2 1 0	9 84	17·57	Rev. Dr. Engledow.
10. Castara	78	2 16 8	13 60	17·44	Rev. A. H. Aguilar.
11. St. Mary's	70	2 10 2	12 04	17·20	Rev. E. R. Smart.
12. Scarborough (Wesleyan)	162	5 15 6	27 72	17·11	Rev. A. H. Aguilar.
13. Goldsborough	89	2 17 10	13 88	15·59	Do.
14. Ebenezer	73	2 3 0	10 32	14·14	Do.
15. Plymouth	113	3 6 0	15 84	14·02	Rev. E. A. Turpin.
16. Mason Hall	91	2 12 6	12 60	13·84	Rev. A. H. Aguilar.
17. Montgomery, Middle	85	2 8 2	11 56	13·60	Rev. F. Uh.
18. Mount Stewart	70	1 18 10	9 32	13·22	Rev. A. H. Aguilar.
19. Parlatuvier	43	0 17 10	4 28	9·95	Rev. E. A. Turpin.
20. The Whim	83	1 13 8	8 08	9·73	Rev. Dr. Engledow.
21. St. Patrick's	102	2 0 4	9 68	9·69	Rev. E. A. Turpin.
22. Moriah (infant)	157	1 10 2	7 24	4·61	Rev. S. L. Thaeler.
23. Bon Accord	103	0 11 10	2 84	2·75	Rev. F. Uh.
24. Montgomery (infant)	125	0 13 4	3 20	2·56	Do.

ANTIGUA.

No. 9.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
August 11, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Antigua, for the year 1878, with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

The duplicate copies of the Blue Book will be forwarded at an early date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of ANTIGUA for the Year 1878.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The returns under the above head show that the finances of the Island are now in a satisfactory condition. There were no new imposts of any kind levied in 1878, whilst there was a still further reduction in the rate of the land tax. There has been an increase in the collections of most of the important heads of revenue. The import duty realised 19,717*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* against 19,102*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* in 1877, and 16,712*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* in 1876, and the excise duty 4,286*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* against 3,587*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* in the previous year. The gross revenue was 37,362*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.* against 33,956*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.* in 1877, and 31,978*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.* in 1876.

2. After the payment in full of all the current expenses of the year, including all charges for sinking fund and interest on the public debt, there was on the 31st of December last, a balance available for the service of the ensuing year of 2,272*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, and a further sum of 1,111*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* to the credit of certain special funds.

ANTIGUA.

3. The gross expenditure was 35,688*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* against 35,023*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* in 1877, the small increase of 664*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* being accounted for by the larger expenditutre on public works.

4. The following is a detailed statement of the revenue and expenditure for 1878 :—

RETURN of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the Presidency of ANTIGUA for the Year ended 31st December 1878.

No.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. *Fixed Establishments.*			By customs - -		23,670 10 1½
Civil - -	3,942 6 2		„ excise - -		4,286 7 6
Judicial - -	3,003 16 11½		„ stamps - -		695 19 2
Ecclesiastical -	1,833 6 8		„ licenses - -		1,719 8 6
Police - -	3,788 0 2		„ fees of office -		521 9 7
Gaol - -	645 12 0		„ post office -		277 19 11
Medical - -	1,582 8 8		„ fines and penalties.		1,116 0 11
		14,795 10 7½	„ rents - -		493 9 5½
2. *Pensions* -		564 13 6	„ taxes—		
4. Administration of justice.		6 6 0	ecclesiastical	1,849 18 4	
6. Hospitals -		4,709 19 10	water -	602 9 2	
7. Education -		1,020 19 1			2,452 7 6
9. Police and gaols		1,023 18 1	„ miscellaneous -		648 3 5
10. Rents - -		337 13 0	„ receipts from Presidencies for keep of prisoners and lunatics, viz :—		
12. Conveyance of mails.		24 16 8	Arrears of 1877.	203 3 6	
13. Works and buildings.		2,162 8 7½	For current year.	755 2	
14. Roads and bridges.		2,559 9 5			958 8 8
15. Miscellaneous payments.		970 17 2			36,840 4 9
16. Interest - -		3,339 12 2	„ balance from last year.		1,531 8 9½
17. Repayment of loans and sinking fund.		1,100 0 0	„ Island of Barbuda.	384 18 9	
18. Military expenditure.		455 2 2	„ escheated estates	65 1 9	
19. Board of health		583 13 3	„ immigration current account.	360 0 0	
20. Signal stations -		155 5 9	„ unrepresented estates.	11 19 9½	
21. Public market -		150 11 10			822 0 3½
22. Registration -		187 1 1			
23. Telegraph subsidy.		800 0 0			
24. Drawback -		305 16 0			
Arrears of 1877 -		120 19 3			
		35,374 13 6			
Island of Barbuda -	367 4 7				
Escheated estates -	40 9 9				
Immigration current account.	18 9 6				
Advances to other Presidencies.	8 3 6				
		434 7 4			
Balance to credit of general revenue.	2,272 19 11				
Balance to credit of special funds.	1,111 13 1				
		3,384 13 0			
		39,193 13 10			39,193 13 10

5. The revenue raised by taxation was 35,723*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, being at the rate of 1*l.* 0*s.* 3¾*d.* per head on the population. The cost of collecting the revenue was 4 per cent. on the total income. The whole of the official income of the Island is included in the above return, there being no local revenues distinct from the general revenue collected.

6. *Assets and Liabilities.*

STATEMENT of LIABILITIES and ASSETS of the Presidency of ANTIGUA on 31st December 1878.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To holders of local loan debentures.	10,100	0	0				By waterworks sinking fund.				18,845	17	2
„ holders of waterworks do.	32,500	0	0				„ Presidency of Anguilla.				9	0	10
„ savings banks -	8,890	15	1				„ cash in Colonial bank on deposit.	1,500	0	0			
„ immigration loan	7,020	0	0										
„ immigration current account.	2,176	0	10½				„ cash in Colonial bank current account.	1,884	13	0			
				60,686	15	11½					3,384	13	0
Liabilities.													
„ escheated estate	1	2	1½								22,239	11	0
„ unrepresented estates.	9	9	1½				„ excess of liabilities.				39,558	18	0½
„ deposit Provost Marshal.	77	0	1										
„ Island of Barbuda	779	18	8										
„ police reward fund.	243	5	9										
„ Presidency of—													
St. Kitts -	0	6	9										
Nevis - -	0	0	7										
Dominica -	0	10	0										
				1,111	13	1							
				61,798	9	0½					61,798	9	0½

Militia.

7. The yeomanry cavalry has fallen off both in regard to strength and efficiency. The corps now consists of seven officers and 19 men. The militia artillery has ceased, for a long time past, to turn out for drill. The cost of the two corps was 455*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, viz., 376*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* for the cavalry, and 78*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* for the artillery.

Public Works.

8. The Government House has been put in substantial repair, and will be painted during the present year. The Colonial Secretary's Office has been almost entirely rebuilt, and other public buildings, including the gaol and the lunatic asylum, have received some petty repairs. The drainage of the city has been much improved. The drain at Ottos, a work much needed in the interests of the public health, was commenced in 1878 and completed in the present year, under the able superintendence of Mr. G. B. Blanc, the civil engineer of Dominica, at a cost of 720*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

9. The total expenditure for public works, including the repair of the roads and streets, was 4,721*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.*

Legislation.

10. Seventeen laws were enacted by the General Legislature, most important of which are :—

An Act to establish a Library for the Supreme Court.

An Act to alter certain provisions of the Leeward Islands Act, 1871, 34 & 35 Vict. c. 107. This Act was rendered necessary in consequence of the passing of the Crown Colony Law in St. Kitts,

ANTIGUA.

as fresh provision had to be made for the representation of that Island in the Federal Legislative Council.

An Act to make provision for the payment of Retiring Pensions to Public Officers.

An Act to enable the Government to make certain provision in aid of the Training College of the Mico Institution.

11. No Acts of general importance were passed by the Local Legislature.

Political Franchise.

12. In the month of October last, a committee was appointed by the Local Legislative Council to report on the expediency of reforming the present political constitution of the Island, re-organising the electoral divisions, and enlarging the franchise. The substance of the report of the committee was to the effect that a revision of the electoral law is absolutely needed, that the area of the electoral divisions is too limited, and that the number of representative members is in excess of its due proportion to the population of the Island. The committee recommended that stringent provisions should be made for preventing the creation of fictitious votes. I would here refer to the observations contained in the 12th–16th paragraphs of my last Blue Book report, on the subject of the political constitution of the Island. There can be no doubt that the present form of representation is no longer suited to the state and circumstances of Antigua.

Civil Establishment.—Leeward Islands.

13. On a new appointment to the office of Attorney-General in June last, the salary of the office was reduced from 800*l.* to 700*l.* per annum. The office of Solicitor-General was at the same time created, with a salary of 200*l.* per annum, whose duty it is to assist the Attorney-General in all matters concerning Crown business. Heretofore this work was performed by legal gentlemen, selected by the Attorney-General, at a cost to the Government averaging about 250*l.* per annum.

14. The prospective reductions, sanctioned by Act No. 2 of 1877, are:—

The abolition of the office of Inspector-General of Police. Mr. Menzies resigned his appointment as Inspector-General early in the present year, whereby a saving has accrued to the Colony of 450*l.* per annum. By the combination of the offices of Colonial Secretary and Auditor-General, should the union be effected, a further saving of 450*l.* will be made in the cost of the civil establishment of the Colony.

Post Office.

15. The necessary assent of the Federal Legislature having been obtained, the Leeward Islands will enter the postal union on the 1st July 1879.

16. The inland post still continues to work unsatisfactorily The postage on letters and newspapers passing through the offic

amounted to 51*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* The total cost of the establishment was 115*l.* 4*s.*, showing a loss of 64*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* on the year's transactions.

17. One hundred and seventy-nine money orders were issued for an aggregate sum of 847*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* The charges against this branch of the office for commission, loss of exchange on orders payable in England, &c., amounted to 26*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, whilst the total receipts for commissions, &c. were 27*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

18. *Savings Bank.*

BALANCE SHEET to 31st December 1878.

Dr.	Balance Sheet.						Cr.		
				£		£	£	*s.*	*d.*
	188	depositors	of less than		-	1	61	10	5
	247	„	of more than	1	and under	5	616	16	9
	92	„	„	5	„	10	637	8	1
	84	„	„	10	„	20	1,151	2	4
	35	„	„	20	„	30	830	17	7
	37	„	„	30	„	40	1,227	18	0
	14	„	„	40	„	50	603	8	1
	13	„	„	50	„	60	689	0	7
	12	„	„	60	„	70	760	18	8
	6	„	„	70	„	80	448	2	6
	7	„	„	80	„	90	592	4	4
	6	„	„	90	„	100	570	15	10
	44	„	„	100	-	-	8,004	10	6
	785								
8,891 10 3	Treasury of Antigua.								
7,200 0 0	Depositors at interest.								
103 3 5	Cash in hand.								
16,194 13 8							16,194	13	8

19. *Abstract of the Transactions for the Year* 1878.

—	Received from.			Paid to.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Cash balance on 1st January -	291	9	3	—		
Deposits at interest - -	1,000	0	0	3,900	0	0
Expenses - - - -		1	0	79	13	0
Interest - - - -	191	18	2	491	15	6
Treasury of Antigua - -	376	0	0	—		
Depositors - - - -	8,285	15	8	5,570	12	2
Cash balance on 31st December -	—			103	3	5
	10,145	4	1	10,145	4	1

Education.

20. The Inspector of Schools reports that steady and satisfactory progress continues to be made in elementary education throughout the Colony. A copy of his report is annexed.

21. In consequence of the trustees of the Mico Charity having intimated their intention to close the Antigua Branch of the

ANTIGUA.

Institution, including the training college for schoolmasters, unless the funds of the charity were augmented by a Government grant-in-aid, it became necessary, in order to keep up the last-mentioned establishment, which has for 40 years worked so usefully in these Islands, and which has been nearly the sole source from which the elementary schools of the Colony have been supplied with qualified masters, to grant an annual sum for its maintenance. A Law was accordingly passed, at the last session of the General Legislature, granting an annual sum of 10*l.* for each student belonging to the Colony receiving instruction in the institution, provided that not more than 20 students shall be paid for at any one time, and provided that the institution shall be open to inspection by the Government Inspector.

22. The elementary school of the Mico Charity received aid to the extent of 56*l* 18*s.* 8*d.* in 1878.

23. The Antiqua vote for elementary education is 1,000*l.* per annum.

Population.

24. The Registrar-General, in his last annual report, states :—

" The total number of births registered for the year was 1,428, of which 737 were males and 687 were females.

" The total number of deaths registered was 1,350, of which 376 were males and 417 were females. The deaths in 1878 were 14 more than in 1876 and 278 less than in 1877.

" The natural increase in the population for the year by excess of births over deaths was 78. In 1877 the deaths exceeded the births by 229.

" There were 56 more male than female children born during the year, and 41 more females than males died during the same period.

" Two hundred and forty-six or 18·2 per cent. of all the deaths for the year were caused by dysentery and other diseases of the digestive organs, while fever caused 224 deaths or 16·6 per cent. of the whole number.

" Fatal cases of dysentery and fever occurred in every month during the year but the former proved most fatal in the first quarter, and the latter in the third quarter of the year.

" Two hundred and eleven deaths and 35 births occurred at the Holberton Hospital, 10 of the children were still-born and six died within a few days of their birth.

" Taking the census of 1871 as the basis for our calculations, the death-rate for the year was 39·3 per 1,000 of the population, and the birth-rate 41·5 per 1,000.

" The death-rate of Antigua is higher than that of any other country from which I have received statistical returns.

" In England and Wales in 1876 the death-rate was 21·0 per 1,000 of the population, which is but little more than half the number per 1,000 that we have in this Island.

" Of the children born during the year 68·4 per cent., or more than two-thirds of the whole number, were illegitimate, and in

St. Peter's Parish, which had the largest proportion of children born out of wedlock, 80·0 per cent. were illegitimate.

"In England and Wales in 1876 illegitimate births were 4·7 per cent.

"This excess of births out of wedlock indicates a state of morality which cannot but be viewed with deep concern by all who desire to see moral or social advancement in the community.

"There is another aspect of this question of illegitimacy which deserves attention, and that is, as being the chief cause of the high death-rate of which Antigua has had to complain for so many years.

"The high death-rate of this Island is owing, mainly, to the excessive mortality among infants, as is clear from the fact that 32·7 per cent. or nearly one-third of all the deaths during the year occurred among children under one year of age; and this excessive mortality among infants is the natural outcome of uncontrolled illegitimacy as can be easily demonstrated.

"Illegitimate children, as a rule, know nothing of the care and attention received by children in properly organised families, as the parents seldom live together for any length of time, while it is too often the case that the father coldly abandons his children and throws the whole task of their care and support on the mother. The mother possessing but little natural affection for her children feels this an intolerable burden of which she desires above all things to be relieved, and the studied neglect of the children which follows as effectually destroys the lives of the little sufferers as could be done by the most cruel violence.

"Again, the children of parents whose lives are so dissolute and irregular are often born with such an enfeebled condition of system that they succumb to the slightest attack of disease under the best care that can be bestowed upon them.

"If further proof were necessary of the baneful effects of illegitimacy on infantile life, we have it in the fact that in St. Peter's Parish, where during the last year 80 per cent. of the births were illegitimate, 51 per cent., or more than one half of the deaths occurred among children under one year of age. That is, the parish which produced the largest proportion of illegitimate children produced also the highest infantile mortality.

"This is certainly a subject deserving of the earnest attention of the Government. And though the task of legislating upon it would not be an easy or pleasant one, yet this is no reason why it should not be fearlessly undertaken."

25. The death-rate for the year, 3·93 per cent., is less than it was in the previous year, when it was 4·6 per cent. The birth-rate was 4·15, but 13·63 per cent. of the total births were still-born.

26. Excluding still-births, from the registered number of births and deaths, the birth-rate of the year was 3·62 per cent. on the total population, and the death-rate 3·39.

27. Illegitimacy, as pointed out by the Registrar-General, is no doubt one of the causes leading to the high rate of mortality

ANTIGUA.

among infants, but perhaps the principal cause of this sad state of things is to be found in the circumstance that the mothers of the infants are in most cases employed in agricultural work and make no provision, whilst employed away from their houses, for the care of their children. Dr. Freeland, the Medical Officer of St. Peter's Parish, and medical attendant of nearly one half of the estates in the Island, in one of his reports states, in reference to this point:—

"The faint and famishing cries of those dependent solely for actual "support upon the actual presence of their mothers, as well as "the hungry and louder lamentations of the older children, are "being heard daily throughout our estates and villages."

28. Governor Irving, during his administration of the Leeward Islands in 1873 and 1874, proposed to the Legislature, with the view of remedying the evils pointed out by Dr. Freeland, the establishment of village nurseries, to which the children in the villages should be sent whilst their parents are in the field, and where a daily meal should be provided for them. The proposal was, however, strongly opposed by the planting body and by a majority of the Local Legislature, owing no doubt to the suggestion that the cost of establishing and maintaining the nurseries should be met by a tax upon the land, or by a small increase in the export duty. The scheme was consequently allowed to drop.

29. The large proportion of still-births to living births may be due to the want of skilled midwives. In the Medical Act of 1870, provision was made for the examination and licensing of midwives. Facilities are also afforded at the Holberton Hospital to respectable females for acquiring a competent and practical knowledge on this head. But comparatively few women avail themselves of the opportunity of qualifying themselves. The appointment of qualified Government midwives, to reside in the centres of the population, would, I think, tend to check to a considerable extent the mortality among infants, as well as the abnormal number of still-births.

30. A qualified midwife was appointed in 1878 for Barbuda. The Rev. Mr. Cowley, one of the lessees of the Island, speaks in high terms of the value and usefulness of this woman's services. I see no reason why the example set in Barbuda should not be followed in the several medical districts of Antigua.

31. The provisions of the law rendering the vaccination of children compulsory are thoroughly carried out by the district medical officers.

Emigration and Immigration.

32. Emigration has now almost entirely ceased.

33. In my report for 1877, I referred to the unsuccessful attempts then made to introduce agricultural labourers from Barbados. In 1878 a special agent was sent to that Island with the object of getting immigrants, but his mission failed. Whilst he was authorised to offer daily wages of 1*s.* for men and 8*d.* for women, the agents from other Islands were offering rates varying from 2*s.* to 3*s.* a day.

34. On the failure to obtain immigrants from other sources, an application was made for Indian or Coolie immigrants. In consequence of the refusal of the General Legislature to pass the amended Immigration Act, owing to the apparent disinclination of some of the planters to the introduction of this class of immigrants, immigration into Antigua from India has not been sanctioned.

35. From the limited number of immigrants applied for, viz., 217, it would not appear that the want of labour is very great in Antigua. A small increase in the rate of wages has somewhat augmented the supply of labour.

Imports, Exports, and Shipping.

36. The value of imports for each of the last five years is as follows:—

	£
1874 - - - -	146,758
1875 - - - -	180,363
1876 - - - -	140,035
1877 - - - -	170,693
1878 - - - -	183,795

37. The value of exports:—

	£
1874 - - - -	106,705
1875 - - - -	249,677
1876 - - - -	136,393
1877 - - - -	210,365
1878 - - - -	191,030

38. The quantity of sugar shipped:—

		£	s.	
1874 - -	6,132 hogheads, valued at	13	10	per hogshead.
1875 - -	14,677 „	13	10	„
1876 - -	8,327 „	14	0	„
1877 - -	10,002 „	17	0	„
1878 - -	10,745 „	15	0	„

39. The following is a comparative statement of the shipping for 1877 and 1878:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1877 - -	356	25,511	362	25,794
1878 - -	371	30,433	372	29,734

Gaol.

40. The gaol of Antigua is also used as a common prison for the Colony, and there are now confined in it 27 long sentenced

ANTIGUA.

convicts from the other Presidencies. Although this gaol is by far the best in the Government in point of size, construction, arrangement, and general discipline, yet it would require much enlargement and extensive alteration before it could be adopted as the sole male convict prison for the Colony. The necessity for such an establishment, on the separate system, is now generally acknowledged in these Islands. The cost of reconstructing the Antigua gaol so as to make it available for that purpose would not be very great, probably under 4,000*l.*, which sum would have to be defrayed in due proportions by the Presidencies. The sum required could be easily raised by a loan, repayable, say, in 25 years. The charge for interest, and for the creation of a fund for its extinction at the end of the above-mentioned period, would not press heavily on any of the Presidencies.

41. The gaols in the other Islands would be retained for female convicts and for short-sentenced prisoners under summary convictions.

Criminal Statistics.

42. The following is a statement of criminal statistics for the last five years:—

Total Number of Persons committed to Prison:—

1874	-	-	1,475
1875	-	-	843
1876	-	-	909
1877	-	-	914
1878	-	-	592

Commitments by Superior Courts:—

1874	-	-	48
1875	-	-	29
1876	-	-	28
1877	-	-	21
1878	-	-	33

Summary Convictions:—

1874	-	-	4,337
1875	-	-	2,636
1876	-	-	2,432
1877	-	-	2,319
1878	-	-	3,411

Recommitments:—

1874	-	-	639
1875	-	-	475
1876	-	-	515
1877	-	-	456
1878	-	-	327

43. The daily average number of prisoners in gaol for the past five years has been as follows :—

Year.	Number of Prisoners belonging to Antigua.	Number of Prisoners from other Presidencies.
1874 - -	101	7
1875 - -	66	12
1876 - -	77	20
1877 - -	74	30
1878 - -	73	31

44. The following is a comparative table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last five years :—

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
The number of offences reported to the police - - -	4,503	4,333	3,730	4,064	4,290
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate -	5,716	5,004	5,398	5,353	5,823
The number of summary convictions :—					
1. For offences against the person - - -	586	526	459	560	461
2. For prædial larceny -	668	317	174	211	167
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	498	191	145	128	263
4. For other offences -	2,585	1,601	1,654	1 420	1,881
The number of convictions in the superior courts :—					
1. For offences against the person - - -	7	7	3	6	10
2. For prædial larceny -	22	14	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - -	12	3	24	13	19
4. For other offences -	7	5	1	2	4
The number of persons acquitted :—					
1. In the inferior courts -	Not stated.	Not stated.	Not stated.	Not stated.	Not stated.
2. In the superior courts -	24	13	7	4	1
The number of cases not prosecuted :—					
In the superior courts -	18	21	17	4	3

Rainfall.

45. The average rainfall for the Island during each of the last six years was as follows :—

1873 - -	29 inches.	1876 - -	49 inches.
1874 - -	38 „	1877 - -	51·65 „
1875 - -	23 „	1878 - -	62·68 „

General.

46. The statistical and other information under review show that marked improvement has taken place in the general condition of the Island within the last three years, and that it is now emerging from the great depression occasioned by the disastrous

ANTIGUA.

hurricane of 1871, and the droughts of 1872, 1873, and 1874 The improvement in trade is manifest by the increased value of imports and by the increase in the exports. Notwithstanding the heavy reduction in the taxation since 1871, the revenue is now considerably in excess of the ordinary expenditure, and the Government have been in a position to carry out important public works which have been much needed but heretofore left neglected from the want of funds. The prospects for 1879 are encouraging, and the sugar crop, now being reaped, is likely to be in excess of the average of the last three years.

47. There has been no increase in crime, and the conduct of the people has been orderly.

(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
President.

REPORT of the INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF SCHOOLS in the LEEWARD ISLANDS for 1878.

To his Honour E. D. BAYNES, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

SIR, Antigua, December 31, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my report for the year 1878 on the elementary schools of the Leeward Islands which are aided or entirely supported by the Government. This constitutes the fourth annual report since the coming into operation of the Education Act of 1874.

2. There are added to this report, in Appendix A., rules and regulations for the guidance of the Sub-Inspector of Schools in the Presidency of Dominica; in Appendix B., duplicates of the statements of accounts for the year 1878 of schools in the Leeward Islands in the receipt of Government aid as the result of examination, which statements of accounts have been already transmitted to the Presidents of the several Islands comprising this Colony; and in Appendix C. the names of schools which have been struck off the Government list or to which grants in aid have been refused, and the reason for such refusal.

3. I have again the pleasure to report that during the past year steady progress has been made in elementary education throughout the Colony.

4. There has been an increase in the number of children attending school in every Presidency except one—Nevis; and satisfactory progress has been made in the attainments of the schools of every Presidency of the Colony without any exception.

5. This may be seen from the three following tabulated statements, which I have carefully compiled :—

TABLE I.

FOR 1877.

Name of Presidency.	No. of Schools.	Number of Scholars.		
		On the Books.	Present on Inspection.	In average Attendance.
Antigua - - -	36	3,012	2,546	2,013
St. Kitt's - - -	25	2,427	1,927	1,558
Dominica - - -	22	1,675	1,322	1,022
Montserrat - -	10	836	689	511
Nevis - - -	9	880	753	564
Virgin Islands - -	9	456	357	277
Totals - -	111	9,276	7,594	5,945

FOR 1878.

Antigua - - -	28	3,077	2,574	2,063
St. Kitt's - - -	25	2,443	1,947	1,537
Dominica - - -	24	1,955	1,498	1,171
Montserrat - -	11	858	706	533
Nevis - - -	9	805	721	534
Virgin Islands - -	11	590	461	341
Totals - -	118	9,728	7,907	6,179

6. From the above we gather that, during the past year—

A. Eight new schools have been placed on the Government list. *Vide* sect. 11, H.

B. There has been a general increase throughout the Colony in the number of scholars on the books, in the number who were present on the day of inspection, and in the number of scholars in daily average attendance.

C. In 1878 there were 234 *more* children in daily average attendance than in 1877. It will be satisfactory if the daily average attendance should continue thus to increase yearly.

D. The number of scholars on the books present at the time of inspection, and in daily average attendance, has increased in Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands.

E. In St. Kitt's, though there has been an increase in the number of scholars on the books, and present on the day of examination, yet there is a slight decrease in the daily average attendance.

F. In Nevis there has been a general decrease in the number of scholars. I cannot well account for this decrease. I know there exists a strong and laudable feeling of rivalry between the teachers of schools belonging to different, and even to the same, religious denominations in this Island. Furthermore, nearly all the schools in this Presidency occupy good positions in the class list. Perhaps the teachers hesitate to receive all the children applying for admission, fearing

ANTIGUA.

lest the new comers may depreciate the standard of their schools. Such conduct, however, would be in direct violation of section 17 of the Educational Act, which requires all schools receiving Government aid to receive all children claiming admission thereto.

G. Of the 9,728 scholars whose names were on the books, 7,907 were present on the day of examination, being 1,728 more than the daily average attendance. As I pointed out in my report for last year, this is an indirect proof of the correctness of the annual returns of the daily average attendance which are forwarded to the Inspector, and which form his basis for calculating the amount of the capitation grant to be paid to each school.

H. The general average number of names of scholars on the books of the 118 schools of the Colony was 82·4.

I. The general daily average attendance throughout the Colony was 52·3.

J. The general daily average attendance in each school in St. Kitt's was 61·4, being the highest in any Presidency; followed, however, very closely by Nevis, which occupied the first place in this respect last year.

K. The general daily average attendance in each school in the Virgin Islands was 31, being (as it was last year) the lowest general daily average attendance in any Presidency throughout the Colony.

L. Reference will be made to this latter statement hereafter, as also to some of the general statements made above.

7. I here insert a table of the schools of the Colony in general, classified according to the Government standards.

TABLE II.

Year.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Failed.	Total.
1875 -	3	8	33	81	125
1876 -	5	12	45	42	104
1877 -	7	19	48	37	111
1878 -	9	24	53	32	118

8. This table shows:—

A. That good and efficient work has been done in the schools of the Colony generally, which year by year have made steady and continuous progress.

B. Thus in 1875 only 3 schools attained to the first class, 8 to the second class, and 33 to the third class; but in 1878 these numbers respectively had increased to 9 in the first class, 24 in the second class, and 53 in the third class.

C. On the other hand, the number of failed schools, which in 1875 amounted to 81, in 1878 had decreased to 32.

9. I have drawn up a tabulated statement for 1878 similar to that which I inserted in my report for last year.

TABLE III.

For 1875.

Name of Presidency.	No. of Schools examined.	Daily Average Attendance.	No. of Schools passed.	No. of Schools failed.	No. of Schools recommended.	No. of Schools struck off the List.
Antigua -	45	1,830	20	25	12	13
St. Kitt's -	26	1,327	13	13	8	5
Dominica -	23	600	8	15	10	5
Montserrat -	12	448	—	12	7	5
Nevis - -	9	406	3	6	4	2
Virgin Islands	10	324	—	10	6	4
Totals -	125	4,935	44	81	47	34

For 1877.

Antigua -	36	2,013	28	8	8	—
St. Kitt's -	25	1,558	20	5	5	—
Dominica -	22	1,022	14	8	7	1
Montserrat -	10	511	4	6	6	—
Nevis - -	9	564	7	2	2	—
Virgin Islands	9	277	1	8	8	—
Totals -	111	5,945	74	37	36	1

For 1878.

Antigua -	38	2,063	35	3	2	1
St. Kitt's -	25	1,537	21	4	4	—
Dominica -	24	1,171	14	10	10	—
Montserrat -	11	533	5	6	6	—
Nevis - -	9	534	9	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	11	341	2	9	9	—
Totals -	118	6,179	86	32	31	1

10. In the above table the statement for 1878 compares favourably with that for the preceding year 1877, and most favourably with that for 1875.

11. Thus on comparison we find :—

A. That though the Education Act contains no clause making the attendance of children at school compulsory, yet there has been a steady increase in the daily average attendance.

B. Thus the average attendance throughout the Colony in 1878 was 234 *more* than in 1877, and 1,244 *more* than in 1875. This steady increase is very satisfactory, and I hope it will continue.

C. That there has been a general increase in the number of schools, which have come up to the Government standards and obtained places in the class list.

ANTIGUA.

D. Thus, in 1875, only 44 schools out of 125 which were examined came up to the required standard, being 35 per cent.; whilst in 1878 no less than 86 out of 118 schools obtained places in the class list, being over 72 per cent.

E. This advance of so large a proportion of the schools from the failed to the class list is also most satisfactory.

F. That there has been a corresponding decrease (as was shown under Table II.) in the number of failed schools, which amounted in 1875 to no less than 81, but in 1878 to only 32. The majority of these are in Dominica and the Virgin Islands, and allusion will be made to them hereafter.

G. That the number of schools which were deemed superfluous or worthless, and as such struck off the Government list, has decreased from 34 in 1875 to only 1 in 1878.

H. In 1877, out of 111 schools which were examined, 1 was struck off the list, leaving 110 schools in receipt of Government aid at the beginning of this year. Since that time 8 new schools have applied for aid, making a total number of 118 schools now on the Government list.

I. Of the eight new schools, two are in Antigua, three in Dominica, one in Montserrat, and two in the Virgin Islands. Further reference will be made to them hereafter.

12. Having alluded thus briefly to the schools of the Colony in general, I now proceed to make a few remarks upon the schools in each Presidency.

ANTIGUA.

1. The Mico Model School retains its high position at the head of the class list in order of merit, immediately followed, however, by Spring Gardens Moravian School, which is but a very small fraction of a mark below it, and which at the late examination advanced four marks in the first class.

2. These two schools were inspected by Admiral Sir A. Cooper Key in 1877, and on the return of the fleet to Antigua in the spring of this year, his Excellency was good enough to say that he had visited many other schools in the West Indies and in North America, but that he had found few to equal and none to surpass these schools. This will be very encouraging to the scholars, teachers, and managers of these two schools.

3. The Mico Model School is followed in order of merit by no less than seven Moravian schools in the first or second class, which testifies to the excellence of the work done by this religious denomination.

4. Spring Gardens and Grace Field Schools obtained higher marks than any school in the Colony for grammar and arithmetic, obtaining "very good" marks for grammar, and in arithmetic attaining nearly to excellence.

5. No less than 11 schools in Antigua have advanced from the failed to the class list, or from a lower to a higher class. Two of these—Sweet's second class and Grace Hill first class—schools are

under the careful supervision of the Reverend J. Turner, Moravian minister. ANTIGUA.

6. St. John's Roman Catholic School has been reopened under the management of the Reverend Father Gaugneux. Although it did not come up to the Government standard at the annual examination yet, as it supplies a real need, I recommend it for exceptional aid.

7. St. Barnabas' School (Anglican) was also re-opened at the commencement of the year, but after maintaining a struggling and precarious existence for six months, it was finally closed on June 30th. There are three good schools in the neighbourhood.

8. Holy Trinity School in Barbuda has improved, and the daily average attendance has largely increased.

ST. KITT'S.

1. The schools of this Presidency are again deserving of commendation.

2. Eleven out of 21 classified schools are to be found in the first or second class.

3. The Moravian and Wesleyan Schools in Basseterre retain their places in the first class at the head of the other schools of the Island.

4. The Anglican School in Sandy Point (St. Ann's) is held in a most unsuitable building, yet through the personal exertions of the rector the school advanced nevertheless from the third to the second class. The churchwarden, E. Pogson, Esq., takes an active interest in the elementary education of the children of the labouring classes. He showed me the estimate of the cost for building a new school. A site has been secured and the foundation walls are already built.

5. Three schools have advanced from the failed to the class list, or from a lower to a higher class.

6. The sewing in the schools of this Presidency is still better on the whole than that in the schools of any other Presidency in the Colony.

7. Although the number of scholars on the books and the number present on the day of examination have increased, yet the daily average attendance is 21 less than it was last year. The decrease is small, but significant, and I regret to have to record it.

DOMINICA.

1. Improvement continues to be made in the state of elementary education in this Presidency, *bad though it still continues to be.*

2. Three new schools have been placed on the Government list, two of them being denominational schools.

3. The daily average has increased from 600 in 1875, to 1,171 in 1878, or over 95 per cent. This, undoubtedly, is so far satisfactory, but it is painful to have to report that out of 24 schools, only one has attained to the first class, and three to the second

ANTIGUA.

class, whilst 10 schools remain in the third class, and 10 others have altogether failed to come up to the required standard.

4. I trust that the managers of Roman Catholic schools will now avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them for obtaining as teachers Roman Catholic youths of ability and good manners, who have been trained at the Mico College in Antigua. Section 4 of "The Mico Act, 1878," states, "that it shall be "lawful for the Governor from time to time to nominate students "of the Roman Catholic religion; and that any such Roman "Catholic student may by a notice in writing to the superintendent "of the college, signify his wish to be withdrawn from religious "instruction; and in every such case, after receipt of such "notice, no instruction shall be given to such student in scripture "knowledge or religious teaching of any kind." This provision is an ample guarantee that the religious education of a Roman Catholic student will not be interfered with whilst he is pursuing his course of study in the Mico College, which is, and in fact always has been, an undenominational institution.

5. The Government school for boys in Roseau retains its place at the head of all the schools in the Island.

6. Next follows the Victoria Orphanage for girls, also in Roseau, and which is still deserving of all praise. The number of orphans who are fed, clothed, and educated in this charitable and most useful institution, has increased from 53 to 64.

7. Four Wesleyan schools in the north and north-east parts of the Island are doing a good work. The schools at Wesley Ville and Marigot, both built by the Reverend J. H. Bridgewater, are well attended, and highly appreciated by the people in the neighbourhood.

8. A new school has been built and opened at Pointe Michel by Father Rigaud. A large number of little girls were present on the day of my visit, and I recommend the school for exceptional aid.

9. St. Paul's School, Mahaut, under the management of Abbe Sivienne, is so largely attended that a new school room is now necessary. This will be built, I believe, so soon as funds can be obtained.

10. I recommend Layou Wesleyan School for exceptional aid. It is held in a large and convenient room, and is fairly supplied with books, slates, and school apparatus. With a young, energetic, and qualified teacher this would soon become a large and most useful school.

11. A government school has been opened at Grand Bay, where it was much needed.

12. The annual examination of teachers was held in Roseau on Whit Monday. Attendance at this examination is compulsory for teachers of Government schools, but optional for those of denominational schools. Notice of the examination was duly published in the Official Gazette, and in the two Island newspapers, yet no teacher of a Roman Catholic School was present, although the preparation for the examination must be beneficial to the

teachers themselves and also to the schools under their charge. The Sub-Inspector reports that he received important help in the examination from the Rev. G. E. Elliot and Dr. Nicholls, who contributed the grammar and geography papers. The prizes were obtained by the under-mentioned:—

Prize.	Amount.	Teacher.	School.	Denomination.
	£			
First -	4	J. T. Michael -	P. Rupert's - -	Government.
Second -	3	A. Roberts - -	Mt. Wallis - -	Wesleyan.
Third -	2	J. W. Delvin -	Roseau - -	Anglican.
Fourth -	1	L. Jacobs - -	Colihaut - -	Government.

13. Much good has resulted from the employment of properly qualified and trained teachers. If a much larger number of such could be employed, then there would be much less anxiety about the state of elementary education in this Presidency, for schools placed in charge of properly qualified teachers would gradually and surely improve.

MONTSERRAT.

1. The improvement in the state of elementary education in this Presidency still continues.

2. The number of scholars has increased; three schools have advanced their position in the class list, and one new school has been placed on the Government list.

3. Messrs. Sturge's school at Olveston has, under the able management of Bishop Westerby, of the United Brethren, attained to the first class, and continues to act as a model and stimulus to the rest of the schools in the Island.

4. I report with pleasure that two new school houses have been built since last year.

A. The Roman Catholic School in Plymouth is a substantial stone building, 20 × 40 feet, well ventilated, with an open roof, gabled ends, and situate close to the church and presbytery. It was erected by Father Gaugneux, the architect of the Roman Catholic Church in St. John's, Antigua.

B. The other, also a stone building, has been erected by the Rev. H. R. Holme, B.A., on Roach's estate, on land given for that purpose by the proprietor. This school will be a great boon to the inhabitants residing in this remote part of the Island.

NEVIS.

1. Under Table I., section 6, F., I noticed with great regret that there had been a general decrease in the number of scholars in this Presidency. The daily average attendance fell from 564 in 1877 to 534 in 1878. It is true that this decrease is small, being only 30, yet as I hoped to have to report an increase, I am consequently disappointed in my expectations.

ANTIGUA.

2. On the other hand, the condition of the schools in this Presidency is most satisfactory.

3. Only so recently as the year 1875, out of nine schools no less than six failed to come up to the Government standard; whilst in 1878 all the nine schools examined attained to the class list.

4. St. George's School is placed at the head of the list in order of merit. This is the first Anglican school in the Colony that has obtained this distinction.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

1. Of the 11 schools in this Presidency, two—the Wesleyan and Anglical schools in Road Town, Tortola—obtained places in the third class.

2. All the schools, however, being necessary, I gladly recommend them for exceptional aid.

3. The educational grant for this Presidency being limited in its amount, the two classified schools could not obtain class grants, but only exceptional aid.

4. The daily average attendance has increased from 277 in 1877 to 341 in 1878.

5. The daily average attendance is small in the schools at Peter Island, Jost Van Dyke, Sea-Cow Bay, East End, and Kingstown; yet I feel that I cannot do otherwise than continue to recommend these small and unsatisfactory schools for exceptional aid, as there is no other school in the respective Island or neighbourhood.

6. Small communities reside in several of the other Islands, where there is no school of any kind. In these Islands the little children grow up without any education whatever.

7. I again visited Kingstown, on the east side of Road Town Harbour, where there is a school for the children of the liberated Africans. The attainments of the scholars were very low, and the teacher's salary is so small that he cannot devote the whole of his time to his scholastic duties. By way of encouragement I have recommended his school for exceptional aid, and shall expect to find some improvement in it on my next visit.

8. West End Wesleyan School was re-opened at the beginning of the year, and I gladly recommend it for exceptional aid. I had very great difficulty in getting to it, the road being almost impassable, but on my arrival I found, to my pleasure and surprise, upwards of 70 children prepared for the examination.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

1. The system of school registration is still very defective and various. Registers should be original, and not copied from slates, bits of paper, &c., on pretence of keeping them clean, or any other plea. Whenever there is defective registration marks are forfeited under the head of organisation. I understand that the superintendent of the Mico Training College is about to publish a "Leeward Islands School Register" for general use throughout the Colony.

2. On the completion of the Government inspection there was again published this year, in the "Royal Gazette of the Leeward Islands," a class list of the schools of the several Presidencies, arranged in order of merit, and a copy was sent to each manager and teacher throughout the Colony. This class list is anxiously looked for, and keenly scrutinised by the teachers, and I believe it stimulates them to increased efforts on behalf of their schools.

3. The following tabulated statement, which I extract from the report of the Inspector of Schools in Jamaica for 1877, shows how the educational expenditure of Antigua compares with that of a few other West Indian Colonies:—

Colony or Island.	Of the Total Amount of Grants actually paid to the Schools during the Year 1877.	
	Average to each School Aided.	Average to each Pupil in Daily Average Attendance.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Trinidad - - -	100 3 6	2 2 2
Barbados - - -	36 4 4	0 12 0
Jamaica - - -	29 18 6	0 12 0
Antigua - - -	21 15 4	0 7 7

4. The chief reason for the grants paid on elementary education being so exceptionally high in Trinidad is, that under the secular system the Government undertakes the entire support of a majority of the elementary schools. This secular system obtains in the Government schools in Dominica, which are only maintained at a great expense.

5. The average cost of each pupil appears to be exactly the same in Barbados and Jamaica, namely, 12*s.* In Antigua it is the lowest of all, namely, only 7*s.* 7*d.* This year, however, owing to the improvement which has taken place in the state of the schools, the average grant to each school in Antigua has increased to 24*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, and the cost of each pupil in daily average attendance to 9*s.*

6. In the July number of "The Nineteenth Century" it is stated, that in the city of Philadelphia the tax for the city schools was rather more than 8*s.* 9*d.* per head for the whole population; whilst, after deducting incidental expenses, the cost per head on the average attendance of scholars for instruction and supervision amounted in New York to 4*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, and in Boston to 5*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* The analysis of cost is not given for Philadelphia. These figures afford of course no materials for comparison with the expenditure on elementary education in the Leeward Islands, but they serve to show the readiness with which the people bear taxation for educational purposes; whilst in the Islands of this Colony, managers and teachers experience the greatest difficulty to induce parents to pay for the education of their children the small sum of 1*d.* per week, this being the minimum prescribed by the Government Regulations.

ANTIGUA.

7. The great increase in the daily average attendance is most satisfactory. Thus the daily average attendance in 1878 was 234 more than in 1877, and 1,244 more than in 1875. Yet I can only repeat what I said in my report for last year, that I am still painfully aware that there are in the Colony large numbers of children growing up in idleness and ignorance.

8. Parents, who are apathetic with regard to the education and welfare of their children, allow them to remain at home in absolute idleness; many others keep their children from school in order that they may render them some slight assistance; others again allow their children to be employed during crop time, but send them to school at other seasons of the year.

9. The words of President Porter, of Montserrat, are applicable to every Island of the Colony. He says, "The attendance of "children at the schools is irregular and uncertain, and there "must be a large number of children who never attend. This "Island is an agricultural and stock-breeding and rearing "country, and the labour of children from the age of seven years "is an important agent in the business of life. Small children "may be seen, morning and evening, steadily and regularly "fetching for family use water from the springs and wells, and "tying out, bringing home, or driving to the drinking places "the horned stock, ponies, sheep, and goats, possessed by nearly "every labourer in the Island. Children carry from the pro-"vision grounds, and take round for sale, the produce, vegetables, "and fruit of their parents' land. As they grow bigger their "labour is sought by the planters, for whom they work from "6 a.m. to 5 p.m., earning good wages (which swell the family "income) in the grass-gang, under pretty sharp supervision. "Grass and other fodder is brought to the mule and cattle pens "by these children, who also drive the mules and donkeys "carrying canes to the mill and boxes of manure to fields. Other "useful work, both in and out of crop time, is done by the small "gang. The labour of children in such a country as this, being "so valuable and useful, attendance at school cannot be expected "to increase to a large extent at once. Gradual enlightenment, "and advance in civilisation of the population generally, will lead "to that by degrees, especially if there be intelligent and "attractive teachers, and the time of school attendance be not "too long and tedious. There is the remedy sometimes advocated "of a Compulsory Education Act," &c., &c. *Vide* President Porter's Report on the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1877.

10. It seems unlikely then, that at this time, when labour is so scarce, and consequently so valuable, either employers or parents in these Islands will voluntarily forego the employment of young children for the sake of their education.

11. On the other hand, that the more I consider the system of compulsory education, whether direct or indirect, the more I find it beset with so many and great difficulties, that in fact it seems to me to be impracticable in this Colony.

12. Furthermore, the expense of building schools in remote places, and wholly supporting them by the Government, would be

very great. And after all, the results may be no more satisfactory than those of the Government schools in Dominica.

13. Since writing the foregoing, I have seen the report on public instruction in Trinidad for 1877–78. The following extract shows the cost of education per scholar during that year.

Schools.	Cost per Head on Average Attendance.
	£ s. d.
Model schools - -	7 1 1½
Port of Spain schools	6 2 1
District schools - -	3 16 3

14. I recommend, therefore, that if the daily average school attendance throughout the Colony continue to increase, as it has done since 1875 (*vide* Section 7), then there be no Compulsory Educational Act introduced at present; but if there should be any serious falling off in the school attendance in general, then some measure, either direct or indirect, for enforcing attendance at school, might be brought forward.

15. Having alluded above to the satisfactory increase in the school attendance, I now revert with pleasure to the great improvement in the condition of the majority of the schools of the Colony.

16. Of the 118 schools, not one has deteriorated since last year, but 22 have advanced from the failed to the class list, or from a lower to a higher class, and 86 or over 72 per cent. obtained places in the class list.

17. I admit that the present standard is comparatively low, yet I trust that no change will be made just yet, for nothing is more detrimental to our elementary schools, more discouraging to the teachers, and more vexatious to the managers, than the introduction of constant alterations.

18. Public money is now spent only in teaching reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and (in the case of girls) sewing. If a sound foundation be thus laid the children will receive much benefit, and be prepared to become hereafter good and useful citizens.

19. School managers are making every effort to meet the requirements of the Education Act, and I recommend, therefore, that at present no further demand be made upon them.

20. I have more than once found it necessary to assure managers of schools that although the Government does not interfere in any way with the liberty allowed by the Education Act to managers for providing for religious teaching and religious observances at the beginning and end of the school day, and although the annual examination by the inspector is limited to secular subjects, yet the Government is by no means indifferent to the moral character of the schools or in any way unfriendly to religious teaching.

ANTIGUA.

APPENDIX A.—DOMINICA.—MEMORANDA with respect to the Duties, &c. of the Sub-Inspector of Schools in the Presidency of Dominica.

1. The sub-inspector shall visit the Government schools quarterly *at the least*, and briefly report their condition to the Inspector-General.

2. He shall assist at the general inspection of schools in Dominica if requested so to do by the Inspector-General.

3. He shall conduct the annual examination of teachers under the direction of his honour the President of the Island, and aided by such of the clergy and gentry who may be willing to give and examine papers.

4. He shall receive from the Government teachers the monthly moiety of school fees, and forthwith pay the same into the Treasury, not retaining or using any portion thereof under any pretence or for any purpose whatsoever.

5. Annually, or oftener if necessary, he shall submit for the approval of the Inspector-General a requisition for books, registers, school materials, &c. for the use of the scholars attending the several Government schools in the Island.

6. He shall keep a journal in which he shall enter the date of visit to each school, together with a brief opinion of the state of such school, an account of receipts and payments into the Treasury of school fees, an account of receipts and disbursement of school materials, dates of appointments of teachers, their removal, dismissal, resignation, increase or decrease of salary, &c.; the subject-matter of all letters relating to elementary education received from his honour the President, the Inspector-General, managers and teachers of schools, &c.

7. He shall visit the denominational schools when requested to do so by the managers of such schools, and shall be ever ready and willing to promote the welfare of elementary education generally in Dominica.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
Inspector-General of Schools.

NOTE.—The above was approved by his Excellency the Governor-General on September 26th, 1878, and consequently came into force from that day.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER.

APPENDIX B.—STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1878 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of ANTIGUA in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1878.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1878.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1879.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£ s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	The Mico - - -	Mixed	Undenominational	I.	123	20 0	36 18 0	56 18 0	48 15 0	8 3 0	14 4 6	
2	Spring Gardens - -	„	Moravian - -	„	142	20 0	42 12 0	62 12 0	47 17 0	4 15 0	15 13 0	
3	Gracefield - -	„	„ - -	„	78	20 0	23 8 0	43 8 0	33 9 0	9 19 0	10 17 0	
4	Greenbay - -	„	„ - -	„	105	20 0	31 10 0	51 10 0	39 15 0	11 15 0	12 17 6	
5	Gracehil - - -	„	„ - -	„	73	20 0	21 18 0	41 18 0	25 6 3	16 11 9	10 9 6	Advanced from Class II.
6	Lebanon - - -	„	„ - -	II.	66	15 0	16 10 0	31 10 0	24 7 6	7 2 6	7 17 6	
7	Sweets - - -	„	„ - -	„	66	15 0	16 10 0	31 10 0	17 5 0	14 5 0	7 17 6	
8	Cedar Hall - -	„	„ - -	„	66	15 0	16 10 0	31 10 0	23 1 3	8 8 9	7 17 6	Advanced from Class III.
9	St. Mark's - -	„	Anglican - -	„	110	15 0	27 10 0	42 10 0	32 1 3	10 8 9	10 12 6	
10	Newfield - - -	„	Moravian - -	„	56	15 0	14 0 0	29 0 0	15 3 0	13 17 0	7 5 0	
11	Ebenezer - - -	„	Wesleyan - -	„	47	15 0	11 15 0	26 15 0	20 1 3	6 13 9	6 13 9	
12	Freetown - - -	„	„ - -	„	67	15 0	16 15 0	31 15 0	16 19 0	14 16 0	7 18 9	Advanced from Class III.
13	St. George's - -	„	Anglican - -	III.	31	10 0	6 4 0	16 4 0	11 11 0	4 13 0	4 1 0	
14	All Saints' - -	„	„ - -	„	59	10 0	11 16 0	21 16 0	15 3 0	6 13 0	5 9 0	
15	Five Islands - -	„	Moravian - -	„	23	10 0	4 12 0	14 12 0	5 14 0	8 18 0	3 13 0	Advanced from Failed List.
16	Gracebay - - -	„	„ - -	„	40	10 0	8 0 0	18 0 0	15 0 o	3 0 0	4 10 0	
17	Otto's - - -	„	Wesleyan - -	„	55	10 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	18 0 0	3 0 0	5 5 0	
18	Cathedral - - -	„	Anglican - -	„	40	10 0	8 0 0	18 0 0	6 16 6	11 3 6	4 10 0	Advanced from Failed List.
19	Holy Trinity, Barbuda -	„	„ - -	„	114	—	—	—	—	—	—	Special Grant from Barbuda Fund.
20	St. Stephen's - -	„	„ - -	„	36	10 0	7 4 0	17 4 0	13 4 0	4 0 0	4 6 0	
21	Farr's Hill - -	„	„ - -	„	50	10 0	10 0 0	20 0 0	14 17 0	5 3 0	5 0 0	
22	Freemanville - -	„	Wesleyan - -	„	40	10 0	8 0 0	18 0 0	12 18 0	5 2 0	4 10 0	
23	Point Chapel - -	„	Anglican - -	„	38	10 0	7 12 0	17 12 0	13 13 0	3 19 0	4 8 0	
24	St. Augustine's - -	„	„ - -	„	31	10 0	6 4 0	16 4 0	13 7 0	2 17 0	4 1 0	
25	Seaton's - - -	„	Wesleyan - -	„	61	10 0	12 4 0	22 4 0	16 19 0	5 5 0	5 11 0	
26	English Harbour -	„	„ - -	„	37	10 0	7 8 0	17 8 0	7 8 6	9 19 6	4 7 0	Advanced from Failed List.
27	Parham - - -	„	„ - -	„	47	10 0	9 8 0	19 8 0	14 17 0	4 11 0	4 17 0	
28	Buckleys - - -	„	Anglican - -	„	36	10 0	7 4 0	17 4 0	6 9 0	10 15 0	4 6 0	Advanced from Failed List.
29	St. Peter's - -	„	„ - -	„	55	10 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	16 1 0	4 19 0	5 5 0	
30	Bethesda - - -	„	Wesleyan - -	„	57	10 0	11 8 0	21 8 0	16 1 0	5 7 0	5 7 0	
31	Potter's - - -	„	Moravian - -	„	24	10 0	4 16 0	14 16 0	11 5 0	3 11 0	3 14 0	
32	St. Paul's - -	„	Anglican - -	„	37	10 0	7 8 0	17 8 0	11 17 0	5 11 0	4 7 0	
33	St. Luke's - -	„	„ - -	„	22	10 0	4 8 0	14 8 0	6 1 6	8 6 6	3 12 0	Advanced from Failed List.
34	Valley Church - -	„	„ - -	„	32	10 0	6 8 0	16 8 0	5 12 6	10 15 6	4 2 0	„ „
35	Bolan's - - -	„	Wesleyan - -	„	28	10 0	5 12 0	15 12 0	5 12 6	9 19 6	3 18 0	„ „
36	Johnson's Point - -	„	Moravian - -	Failed, but recomd	25	5 0	2 10 0	7 10 0	5 12 6	1 17 6	1 17 6	
37	St. John's - -	„	Roman Catholic -		25	3 15	1 17 6	5 12 6	—	5 12 6	1 17 6	Ex. Aid from April 1st.
38	St. Barnabas - -	„	Anglican - -		21	2 10	1 1 0	3 11 0	3 11 0	—	—	„ to June 30th.
38	Totals -	- -	- - -	- -	2,063	436 5	457 0 6	893 5 6	606 11 6	281 14 0	222 18 0	

December 1878.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1878 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of ST. KITT'S in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1878.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1878.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1879.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	Basseterre	Mixed	Moravian	I.	103	20	30 18 0	50 18 0	38 8 0	12 10 0	12 14 6	
2	„	„	Wesleyan	„	87	20	26 2 0	46 2 0	33 13 6	12 8 6	11 10 6	
3	Bethel	„	Moravian	II.	59	15	14 15 0	29 15 0	24 0 0	5 15 0	7 8 9	
4	St. Mary's	„	Anglican	„	73	15	18 5 0	33 5 0	24 18 9	8 6 3	8 6 3	
5	St. George's	„	„	„	58	15	14 10 0	29 10 0	22 6 3	7 3 9	7 7 6	
6	Old Road	„	Wesleyan	„	53	15	13 5 0	28 5 0	19 17 6	8 7 6	7 1 3	
7	Estridge's	„	Moravian	„	51	15	12 15 0	27 15 0	22 6 3	5 8 9	6 18 9	
8	Bethesda	„	„	„	88	15	22 0 0	37 0 0	28 2 6	8 17 6	9 5 0	
9	Old Road	„	Anglican	„	58	15	14 10 0	29 10 0	20 8 9	9 1 3	7 7 6	
10	St. Ann's	„	„	„	50	15	12 10 0	27 10 0	17 5 0	10 5 0	6 17 6	Advanced from Class III.
11	Halfway Tree	„	Wesleyan	„	46	15	11 10 0	26 10 0	13 19 0	12 11 0	6 12 6	„ „ „
12	Dieppe Bay	„	„	III.	106	10	21 4 0	31 4 0	26 17 0	4 7 0	7 16 0	
13	Tabernacle	„	„	„	64	10	12 16 0	22 16 0	17 8 0	5 8 0	5 14 0	
14	Sandy Point	„	„	„	42	10	8 8 0	18 8 0	15 6 0	3 2 0	4 12 0	
15	St. Paul's	„	Anglican	„	54	10	10 16 0	20 16 0	13 7 0	7 9 0	5 4 0	
16	Christ Church	„	„	„	61	10	12 4 0	22 4 0	15 10 6	6 13 6	5 11 0	
17	St. Peter's	„	„	„	56	10	11 4 0	21 4 0	17 5 0	3 19 0	5 6 0	
18	St. Paul's	„	Wesleyan	„	45	10	9 0 0	19 0 0	15 12 0	3 8 0	4 15 0	
19	St. Thomas	„	Anglican	„	60	10	12 0 0	22 0 0	13 19 0	8 1 0	5 10 0	
20	Trinity Church	„	„	„	65	10	13 0 0	23 0 0	16 1 0	6 19 0	5 15 0	
21	Palmetto Point	„	Wesleyan	„	43	10	8 12 0	18 12 0	6 13 6	11 18 6	4 13 0	Advanced from Failed List.
22	St. John's	„	Anglican	Failed, but recommended	57	5	5 14 0	10 14 0	7 8 6	3 5 6	2 13 6	
23	Cayon	„	Wesleyan		32	5	3 4 0	8 4 0	6 13 6	1 10 6	2 1 0	
24	New Town	„	Moravian		66	5	6 12 0	11 12 0	8 15 6	2 16 6	2 18 0	
25	Irish Town	„	„		60	5	6 0 0	11 0 0	8 11 0	2 9 0	2 15 0	
25	Totals	- -	- - -	- -	1,537	295	331 14 0	626 14 0	454 13 0	172 1 0	156 13 6	

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H. M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1878 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of DOMINICA in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1878,	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1878.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1879.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£ s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	Roseau	Boys'	Government	I.	74	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1	Victoria Orphanage	Girls'	Roman Catholic	II.	64	15 0	16 0 0	31 0 0	21 3 9	9 16 3	7 15 0	
3	St. George's	Boys'	Anglican	„	53	15 0	13 5 0	28 5 0	14 2 0	14 3 0	7 1 3	Advanced from Class III.
4	Colihaut	Mixed	Government	„	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5	Souffriere	„	„	III.	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6	Prince Rupert's	„	„	„	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7	Marigot	„	Wesleyan	„	50	10 0	10 0 0	20 0 0	14 8 0	5 12 0	5 0 0	
8	La Roche	„	Government	„	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9	St. George's	Girls'	Anglican	„	37	10 0	7 8 0	17 8 0	12 15 0	4 13 0	4 7 0	
10	Vielle Case	Mixed	Government	„	51	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11	Wesley Ville	„	Wesleyan	„	55	10 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	6 15 0	14 5 0	5 5 0	Advanced from Failed List.
12	Hampstead	„	„	„	22	10 0	4 8 0	14 8 0	10 19 0	3 9 0	3 12 0	
13	Mount Wallis	„	„	„	26	10 0	5 4 0	15 4 0	11 11 0	3 13 0	3 16 0	
14	The Convent	Girls'	Roman Catholic	„	79	10 0	15 16 0	25 16 0	18 0 0	7 16 0	6 9 0	
15	Pointe Michelle	Mixed	Government	Failed, but recommended.	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	
16	St. Joseph	„	„		42	—	—	—	—	—	—	
17	Roseau	Girls'	„		56	—	—	—	—	—	—	
18	Coulibristrie	Mixed	„		32	—	—	—	—	—	—	
19	Roseau	Boys'	Roman Catholic		29	5 0	2 18 0	7 18 0	6 0 0	1 18 0	1 19 6	
20	St. Paul's	Mixed	„		66	5 0	6 12 0	11 12 0	8 2 0	3 10 0	2 18 0	
21	Pointe Michelle	„	„		38	5 0	3 16 0	8 16 0	—	8 16 0	2 4 0	A new school.
22	Layou	„	Wesleyan		28	3 15	2 2 0	5 17 0	—	5 17 0	1 19 0	A new school. Ex. aid from 1st April.
23	Du Blanc	„	Government		30	—	—	—	—	—	—	Not classed.
24	Grand Bay	„	„		54	—	—	—	—	—	—	A new school.
24	Totals	-	-	-	1,171	108 15	98 9 0	207 4 0	123 15 9	83 8 3	52 5 9	

December 1878.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H. M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1878 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of MONTSERRAT in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1878.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1878.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1879.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	Olveston - - -	Mixed	Undenominational	I.	70	20	21 0 0	41 0 0	24 3 9	16 16 3	10 5 0	Advanced from Class II.
2	St. Mary's - -	„	Anglican - -	II.	109	15	27 5 0	42 5 0	21 18 0	20 7 0	10 11 3	„ „ Class III.
3	Plymouth - -	„	Wesleyan - -	„	54	15	13 10 0	28 10 0	22 2 6	6 7 6	7 2 6	
4	St. Peter's - -	„	Anglican - -	III.	42	10	8 8 0	18 8 0	14 11 0	3 17 0	4 12 0	
5	St. Patrick's - -	„	„ - -	„	31	10	6 4 0	16 4 0	5 17 0	10 7 0	4 1 0	Advanced from Failed List.
6	Bethel - - -	„	Wesleyan - -	Failed, but recommended.	52	5	5 4 0	10 4 0	8 2 0	2 2 0	2 11 0	
7	St. George's - -	„	Anglican - -		38	5	3 16 0	8 16 0	6 10 6	2 5 6	2 4 0	
8	Plymouth - -	„	Roman Catholic -		36	5	3 12 0	8 12 0	6 7 6	2 4 6	2 3 0	
9	Kinsale - - -	„	Anglican - -		35	5	3 10 0	8 10 0	6 3 0	2 7 0	2 2 6	
10	Cavalla Hill - -	„	Wesleyan - -		46	5	4 12 0	9 12 0	7 11 6	2 0 6	2 8 0	
11	Roaches - - -	„	Anglican - -		20	5	2 0 0	7 0 0	—	7 0 0	1 15 0	New School.
11	Totals - -	- -	- - -	- -	533	100	99 1 0	199 1 0	123 6 9	75 14 3	49 15 0	

December 1878.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1878 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of NEVIS, in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1878.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1878.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1879.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation. Grant.	Total.				
						£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	St. George's	Mixed	Anglican	II.	58	15	14 10 0	29 10 0	22 17 6	6 12 6	7 7 6	
2	Gingerland	„	Wesleyan	„	122	15	30 10 0	45 10 0	31 10 0	14 0 0	11 7 6	
3	Charlestown	„	„	III.	99	15	24 15 0	39 15 0	32 5 0	7 10 0	9 18 9	
4	Combermere	„	„	„	39	10	7 16 0	17 16 0	15 0 0	2 16 0	4 9 0	
5	St. Paul's	„	Anglican	„	50	10	10 0 0	20 0 0	15 3 0	4 17 0	5 0 0	
6	St. Thomas's	„	„	„	42	10	8 8 0	18 8 0	14 17 0	3 11 0	4 12 0	
7	St. James	„	„	„	33	10	6 12 0	16 12 0	12 3 0	4 9 0	4 3 0	
8	Clifton	„	Wesleyan	„	36	10	7 4 0	17 4 0	3 0 9	14 3 3	4 6 0	Advanced from Failed List.
9	St. John's	„	Anglican	„	55	10	11 0 0	21 0 0	9 0 0	12 0 0	5 5 0	„ „
9	Totals	-	-	-	534	105	120 15 0	225 15 0	155 16 3	69 18 9	56 8 9	

December 1878.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H. M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1878 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of the VIRGIN ISLANDS in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name and Locality of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1878.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1878.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1879.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	Road-Town, Tor -	Mixed	Wesleyan - -	III.	36	5	3 12 0	8 12 0	14 5 0	—	2 3 0	Overpaid, 5*l.* 13*s.*
2	St. George's, Tor -	„	Anglican - -	„	21	5	2 2 0	7 2 0	5 6 6	1 15 6	1 15 6	Advanced from failed list.
3	East End, Tor - -	„	Wesleyan - -	Not classed, exceptional aid.	26	5	2 12 0	7 12 0	5 17 0	1 15 0	1 18 0	
4	West End, Tor - -	„	„ - -		55	5	5 10 0	10 10 0	—	10 10 0	2 12 6	New school.
5	Jost Van Dyke - .	„	„ - -		30	5	3 0 0	8 0 0	6 8 3	1 11 9	2 0 0	
6	Peter Island - -	„	„ - -		20	5	2 0 0	7 0 0	5 3 6	1 16 6	1 15 0	
7	Anegada - - -	„	„ - -		50	5	5 0 0	10 0 0	6 13 6	3 6 6	2 10 0	
8	St. Paul's, Tor -	„	Anglican - -		17	5	1 14 0	6 14 0	4 0 3	2 13 9	1 13 6	
9	St. Peter's, Tor -	„	„ - -		30	5	3 0 0	8 0 0	6 6 0	1 14 0	2 0 0	
10	Kingstown, Tor -	„	„ - -		22	5	2 4 0	7 4 0	—	7 4 0	1 16 0	New school.
11	Virgin Gorda - -	„	„ - -		34	5	3 8 0	8 8 0	5 6 6	3 1 6	2 2 0	
11	Totals - -	- -	- - - -	- -	341	55	34 2 0	89 2 0	59 6 6	35 8 6	22 5 6	

December 1878.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

APPENDIX C.—NAMES of SCHOOLS which have been struck off the GOVERNMENT LIST, or to which GRANTS in aid have been refused, and the reason for such refusal.

No.	Presidency.	School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Remarks.
1	Antigua - - -	St. Barnabas - - -	Mixed - - - -	Anglican - - -	Nothing to recommend it. Superfluous *Vide* section 5, Ed. Act.

December 1878.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 10.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
SIR, October 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1878, in duplicate, together with the President's report thereon.

The President reports that he will forward a copy of the Blue Book direct to the Board of Trade.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, Montserrat, October 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to his Excellency the Governor the Blue Book of this Presidency for 1878, accompanied by my report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
His Honour the Colonial Secretary President.
of the Leeward Islands, Antigua.

Finance.

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1876 - - -	5,181 - -	4,773
1877 - - -	5,517 - -	5,173
1878 - - -	5,637 - -	5,474

Imperial Post Office receipts and remittances deducted, average revenue, 5,443*l.*; expenditure, 5,140*l.*

Trade.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1876 - -	23,989 - -	28,356
1877 - -	25,071 - -	33,065
1878 - -	27,311 - -	30,239

Average,—imports, 25,457*l.*; exports, 30,553*l.*

Agriculture.

The growers of sugar have been severely tried by a long continuance of low prices, and there has been every need of persevering industry and frugal private expenditure to enable our agriculturists to hold their ground. The cultivation of limes is extending, to the great advantage of the rural population in the northern part of the Island. Happily, there was last year the usual abundant fall of rain, coming, it is true, on occasions somewhat out of season. The absence of drought means food in plenty for the people, and small sailing craft constantly drop in to buy their surplus of sweet potatoes, plantains, bananas, oranges, &c.; latterly American schooners have come to purchase limes.

General Remarks.

The affairs and interests of so small a community as this offer no great scope for comment.

The people of this Island enjoy, on the whole, a comfortable prosperity, without having opportunities for the rapid acquisition of wealth. There is a remarkable daily improvement in the dwellings of the labouring class. The click and ring of the mason's hammer are constantly heard as one rides about, and on the arrival of a cargo of lumber, much of it is bought on the beach by the country folk who may be seen toiling on the road with their burdens of board. Shingles are also gradually being substituted for cane trash (thatch) as roofing material.

I should be disappointed with the little use made of the savings' bank, established six or seven years ago, did I not know that the peasant and the mechanic have a safe and profitable investment in their plot of land and their breeding cows, mares, sheep, and goats.

As regards religion and morals, I consider that slow if not satisfactory improvement is going on. Religious gatherings and ceremonies attract and excite much the negro population, and their small subscriptions yield a considerable contribution to ecclesiastical objects; but their religious impressions do not affect to the extent that could be desired, and might be expected, their manner of living and acting. They do not, as a class, aspire to a high moral level. They are disposed to consider a "keeper" as good a helpmate as a wife, and are rather shy of incurring conjugal obligations. That they have many good qualities cannot be denied. They are, as a body, amiable and orderly, and hold in high respect the law and constituted authority.

The old African superstition of Obeah, which strikes such terror into the hearts of the black and coloured people, often making strong men ill from fear, is still firmly established throughout this Island. Its influence is great on the minds of the comparatively wealthy, as well as of the humble and ignorant hoe labourers.

Instances of the practice of Obeah to inflict annoyance and injury are frequently heard of.

There is no law here dealing with this specific offence. The paragraph in the Vagrant Act— "every person pretending to tell "fortunes, or using any subtle craft, &c., &c., to deceive or impose "on any of Her Majesty's subjects" would apply in some cases, could sufficient evidence be obtained, but the Obeah or doctor man does not, as a rule, practice mere deception; his system is one of terror and persecution carried on by working persistently on the superstitious fears of his victim, at the same time, perhaps, to prove his malevolent power, destroying by secret means his cattle or spoiling his little lot of canes waiting to be ground at a neighbour's mill. The Obeah man either acts as a paid agent or in a spirit of revenge for some real or imagined grievance.

I am of opinion that the practice of Obeah should be made felony, and any compromise of a case once disclosed should be punishable severely.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
President.

ANGUILLA.

No. 11.

REPORT on ANGUILLA by A. W. MOIR, C.M.G., President of Saint Christopher.

THIS Island is placed under the Presidency of Saint Christopher, and is distant from it 60 miles to the N.N.W. It lies 90 miles from Antigua, 21 from Saint Bartholomew, 7 miles from Saint Martin, and 120 from Saint Thomas.

2. Its length is about 21 miles, and the average breadth $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, comprising about 30,000 acres, of which not more than 800 acres are cultivated, if the return for the land tax can be relied on.

3. It is almost surrounded by coral reefs; but there is a passage for large ships at the south-west of the Island leading into a quiet anchorage, where vessels of any tonnage can lie in safety and ship salt, the most valuable production of the place.

4. The light on Sombrero is visible at Crocus Bay in Anguilla.

5. Some parts of the Island slope gently down to the sea, at other places it rises abruptly from the shore to a height of 40 or 50 feet, while for the most part the centre of the Island assumes a basin-like form.

6. Anguilla is partitioned into three divisions, viz., the road, the valley, and the spring, and the only buildings of any importance are the court-house, Episcopalian church, and parsonage. A school-house and teacher's house in the first of these divisions, and two Wesleyan chapels, one in the road and the other in the valley, with a mission house and school-house. The great

ANGUILLA.

majority of the people's dwellings are formed of wattles thatched with the branches of the dwarf palm. This plant gives employment also to many of the women who manufacture it into "plait" brooms, baskets, and matting, yielding a profitable result.

7. The climate is very healthy, the inhabitants showing a fine physical development, and many live to extreme old age; the last census returns (1871) show that out of a population of 2,773 there were then alive 218 persons above the age of 65 years, of whom:—

129	were above	65
64	„	75
20	„	85
5	„	95

The census returns give no information as to the number of the different complexions, but from personal observation the white is conspicuous by its rare appearance, most who are met with being either black or of very dark complexion, the characteristics of the Islanders being very similar to those already described in my précis of information concerning Saint Christopher.

8. As a general rule the people are comfortably off, being proprietors of spots of land, owners of boats, raisers of small stock, and fishermen. They are generally peaceable and law abiding. In dry weather many of them find employment in the Salt Pond, and in the wet season they busy themselves in the cultivation of their grounds.

9. For many years the quantity of salt shipped from the Salina has averaged over 98,000 bushels, but the heavy rainfall during last and this year has prevented the formation of the crystal by solar evaporation, and from the latest information 74,623 bushels had been gathered in 1878, but only 1,537 bushels in 1879. In consequence of this abundant rainfall the lessee of the Salina has suffered loss, but the people have reaped an abundant harvest of ground provisions, mitigating the distress which would otherwise have been their portion.

10. Besides the export of salt the produce of the Island consists of corn, yams, casava, pease, beans, and sweet potato, while many of the people raise ponies, cattle, mules, pigs, goats, sheep, and poultry, for which is found a ready sale in St. Thomas and the nearer Islands. Fruit trees do not thrive, as there is but little or no shelter for them from the strong trade winds which almost constantly blow over the land.

11. Experiments have proved that phosphates, guano, and an inferior coal exist in Anguilla, but, as yet, they have been discovered in such small quantities that the shipment of such as have been found has proved unremunerative. Indigo and cotton were at one time grown in considerable quantities, but the cultivation has been abandoned. Aloes and tobacco grow luxuriantly, but are not cultivated to profit.

12. The food of the people consists of the ground provisions and animals enumerated above, with fish, turtle, and crabs, sup-

plemented by wheaten bread, corn-meal, and rice, which are imported.

13. The local affairs are administered by a presiding Magistrate, assisted by a vestry composed of three elected and three nominated members. The Magistrate is also Deputy Judge of the Summary Jurisdiction Court (Acts No. 9 of 1874, and 27 of 1876), Commissioner of the Supreme Court (Act No. 7 of 1876), District Magistrate and Coroner (Act 7 of 1877), and he performs the duties appertaining to the offices of Treasurer, Provost Marshal, and Registrar of the Supreme Court.

14. The revenue is derived from an import duty, a tax upon houses, a tax upon cultivated land, spirit and merchandise licenses, and an export duty on salt and charcoal, all of which realise on an average of the last 10 years an annual revenue of 773*l.*, which is just about sufficient to meet the annual expenditure.

15. The estimated expenditure for the present year consists of the following items:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Magistrate's salary - - -	220	0	0
,, clerk - - -	30	0	0
Customs officer - - -	65	0	0
Police: 1 sergeant,* 3 privates -	120	0	0
Federal expenses - - -	72	0	0
Gaol - - - -	57	10	0
Episcopalian minister - -	22	10	0
Schools - - - -	40	0	0
Rent of custom house - -	20	4	0
Mail service - - -	22	10	0
Administration of justice - -	5	0	0
Maintenance of paupers - -	75	0	0
Printing and stationery - -	5	0	0
Public road - - - -	20	0	0
Miscellaneous - - -	5	0	0
	£779	14	0

* The sergeant acts as gaoler and provost marshal's bailiff, and receives 50*l.* per annum, the three privates have 18*l.* each, and the clothing costs about 16*l.* for the whole.

Nevis.

NEVIS.

No. 12.

Governor Berkeley, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
September 11, 1879.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a copy of a letter from the Acting President of Nevis, forwarding a report on the Blue Book of that Island for the year 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) George Berkeley,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Report on Blue Book of 1878, and present condition of the Island of Nevis.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The sum of the revenue collected during the year 1878 was 10,076*l.*, whilst the receipts for 1877 amounted to 9,891*l.*, showing an increase in 1878, as compared with the previous year, of 185*l.*

2. The above approximation of the sums total for these two years does not indicate a similarly close correspondence in the value of receipts from the various sources of revenue under each separate head.

3. These last exhibited an expected diminution under some heads, and under others an increase (chiefly in customs).

4. Of diminished receipts it will be sufficient to mention those arising from excise and direct taxes.

5. The excise duty, which produced in 1877 1,036*l.* 2*s.*, only realized the amount in 1878 of 831*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, showing a falling off in the receipts of this latter year of 205*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* This was caused by the retailers of rum taking out a larger supply in 1877 in anticipation of increased duty.

6. This tax, arranged in its present form by Act No. 10 of 1877, was estimated as a source to the revenue of 1,200*l.* per annum, but the receipts amounting in 1877 to 1,036*l.* 2*s.*, though nearer the original estimate, were probably exaggerated from the cause above mentioned, and a safer estimate of the average annual value of receipts from this tax would be about 900*l.*

7. Of the three principal direct taxes, the house tax was repealed in 1878, causing a loss to the revenue in that year of 239*l.*

8. An alteration in the rate of the land tax reduced the revenue, under this head, in 1878 to 502*l.* as compared with 815*l.* in the preceding year.

9. The horse and carriage tax produced only 529*l.* in 1878, as compared with 735*l.*, the receipts from this tax in 1877.

10. These diminished receipts, besides others of no peculiar significance or large amount, made up a sum total of deficiencies, under various heads, amounting to 870*l.*, and would have seriously affected the revenue but for the set off caused by increased receipts under customs and excise.

11. The amount collected for import duty increased from 4,682*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, in 1877 to 4,849*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.* in 1878, presenting a comparative increase in the latter year of 166*l.* 19*s.* 0½*d.*, and over the estimates of 345*l.*

12. The revenue derived from export duty in 1878 nearly doubled that of 1877, viz. :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878 - - - -	658	18	0
1877 - - - -	322	15	0
Increase in 1878 - -	336	2	1

It also exceeded the estimates by 158*l.* This was the direct result of a good crop.

13. The immigration tax (being also an export tax on sugar) produced larger receipts in 1878.

14. The receipts from stamp duty showed a corparative increase in 1878 of 53*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

15. These increased receipts, and others of slight amount, more than counterbalanced the deficiencies noted above, and nearly equalized the sum total of revenue for the two years.

16. The total expenditure of 1878 was 8,962*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, which, as compared with 9,084*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, the sum expended in 1877, shows a decrease of 121*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* for the former year.

17. The disbursements, however, in 1877 had been abnormally large, notably those for public works, 965*l.*, and a legacy of arrears due to fixed establishments, &c. had been left for payment in 1878, increasing the expenditure of the latter year under 14 heads and amounting in the aggregate to 954*l.*

18. The expenditure incurred during 1878, and belonging exclusively to that year, was therefore little more than 8,000*l.*

19. A Dr. balance of 345*l.* 15*s.* 10¾*d.* was paid off in 1879, and the Treasurer's statement of receipts and payments to 31st July of the present year shows an excess of revenue over expenditure of 2,229*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*

20. This has been caused by increased receipts from customs, in imports, by the establishment of some new mercantile firms, and, consequently, increased imports; and in exports by the abundant crop of this year.

Public Debt.

21. In 1878 there was paid off:—	£	s.	d.
Instalment of immigration loan - -	600	0	0
„ of loan in aid of general revenue	400	0	0
with interest - - -	72	0	0
In 1879 has been paid off:—			
Balance of immigration loan - -	600	0	0
„ of loan in aid of general revenue -	800	0	0
with interest - - -	32	10	8

The original loans were effected with the Colonial Bank at St. Kitts, at 6 per cent. interest, and are now entirely liquidated.

Public Works.

22. A sum of 200*l.* was set apart in the estimates for the current year for the building of a bridge at Bridge Ghaut, but the commencement of this work has been postponed until the appointment of a Superintendent of Public Works.

Agriculture.

23. The crops of 1878 and 1879 have been much the same in amount and quality, and both good, though not exceptional. The heavy rains of August of this year, though advantageous in some respects, have retarded sugar-making on a few of the more backward estates, and a considerable quantity of ripe cane has been left in the ground.

24. An attempt is about to be made, on a small scale, to introduce the lime cultivation, so successful at Montserrat. Mr. Hutchinson, a planter and member of the Legislative Council, has informed me of his intention to plant 10 acres; and one or two other gentlemen will, I believe, also make the attempt.

Labour.

25. General complaints of the scarcity of labour are common, but I have not heard of any special instance of loss or serious inconvenience arising from it. Estates remote from villages and towns are naturally more liable to suffer in this way, unless they offer facilities and inducements to the labourers to reside near their work, which is done in some instances. The usual earnings of a labourer per day are 1*s.*, the price of a task, fixed and allotted according to a recognised standard in such matters.

26. But this is so much below the working capabilities of an able-bodied negro, that many of them could perform two tasks and earn 2*s.*, if they cared to do so. It is very rarely, however, that they attempt it.

27. Women are paid 10*d.* and children 6*d.* to 7*d.* per day's task in crop time.

28. These rates, though low, as compared with other countries, are sufficient here to maintain a provident and industrious labouring class in comfort. This is not the character of the negro labourers, and there is consequently much poverty and distress at

times. The introduction of Coolie labourers has not affected the rate of wages, nor operated in any way to the prejudice of the Creole population.

Immigration.

29. The expiry of the indentures of Indian immigrants, which took place in 1879, was followed by a general refusal on their part to re-engage themselves for a further term.

30. Many, however, are still working as free labourers on estates, and some who went over to St. Kitts, with the idea of obtaining a better market for their labour, have since returned. Some few have gone to Trinadad.

31. They appear to live easily with the negroes, who make no attempt to molest them, and, in general, they have saved money and are well off, being peaceable and well conducted. A resolution was passed in August of this year by the Legislative Council, and forwarded by his Excellency the Governor, requesting the sanction of the Secretary of State to an application to the Indian Government for a fresh supply of coolies under the provisions of the Nevis Immigration Act, No. 23 of 1872, and to the raising of a loan for that purpose.

32. This was not accompanied by any specific return of the number required, and directions were issued to me by the Colonial Secretary to remedy this defect. I have accordingly sent notice to every owner or manager of estates in Nevis requesting that applications may be sent in, but, after a lapse of two weeks, I have only received one application at the date of writing.

33. Many planters who favour this kind of immigration on general grounds, and are willing to be burdened with their share of the immigration tax, have no intention themselves of accepting the responsibilities imposed by law on the employer of Coolies, or subjecting themselves to the necessary expense incurred by the payment of indenture fees, or the discomfort of constant Government inspections.

34. I am not in a position to state, at present, with certainty, that the applications will be sufficient in the aggregate for Nevis alone to make up the lowest number which the Government of India have prescribed for a single ship's freight. The following table gives such information as to the numbers, &c. respecting the time expired Coolies as the police have been able to obtain :—

Nevis, 30th August 1879.

Return of Coolies.

Number of Coolies whose indentures expired in April 1879 - - - - - -	258
Number of those at present in the Island - -	134
Number of departures to St. Kitts noted at the police station - - - - - -	27
Number of arrivals from St. Kitts noted at the police station - - - - - -	9

NEVIS.

Number of time expired Coolies who left this Island previous to 5th June 1879 - - - - 101

(Signed) H. BEACH,
Inspector of Police.

General Remarks.

35. As compared with recent years, the condition of the Island in 1878 and 1879 may be described as fairly prosperous. Two good seasons have produced their beneficial effect, notwithstanding the unprecedented low price of the staple exports in the British and American markets.

36. The establishment of two or three new trading firms and increased imports noted above testify, to a certain measure, of well being in the community.

37. It is remarkable, however, that the disinclination to invest capital in land remains as heretofore, as evidenced by the great number of still abandoned estates, and the low prices obtained for those sold in the Encumbered Estates Court.

38. Amongst works of recognised public utility postponed for want of funds the most prominent, as affecting the health and comfort of all classes, is undoubtedly the storage and distribution of water.

39. During seasons of drought the loss occasioned by failure of crops is enhanced by the difficulty of keeping alive horses and stock, whilst the suffering entailed on the labouring class is long remembered, and is thought to be a chief cause of emigration to Trinidad.

40. The Islands of Antigua, St. Kitts, and latterly also Montserrat, have all made provision in this respect. It is true the conditions are not the same throughout the group, Nevis being probably more deficient than any other Island in permanent springs and sources; but nevertheless, taking a wider comparison, these might be found to be more favourable in Nevis than in many other places depending for their annual supply for consumption, and irrigation also, on rainfall collected in tanks; as, for instance, Gibraltar, and parts of the Maritime Alps. No opinion can be presented as coming from a competent civil engineer, but, if the Superintendent of Public Works after his arrival can suggest a practicable and not too expensive scheme, I have reason to believe that it would be well supported in the Colony, and it is certainly worth the attention of the Government.

(Signed) J. SPENCER CHURCHILL,
Nevis, August 30th, 1879. Acting President.

DOMINICA.

No. 13.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
SIR, October 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of Dominica for the year 1878, with the President's report thereon.

I also enclose a statement of the assets and liabilities of the presidency on the 31st December 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, President's Office, October 7, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the past year, which, I regret to say, is later than usual in its transmission.

2. The limited area, both of agriculture and commerce, in the Presidency, with its circumscribed monetary currency, affords a fertile source for continual anxiety as to the occurrence of the numerous vicissitudes, attendant upon the extreme alternations of dry or wet weather, or the success or failure of mercantile persuits; while on the other hand, the elasticity of the various sources of revenue is not less striking when the passing depression or interruption is removed.

3. The financial difficulties of 1877 have been partially overcome, and strict economy for a year or two will, I doubt not, permanently extricate the Presidency from difficulty. The ordinary revenue exceeded the ordinary expenditure, the additional tax of 5 per centum on existing duties, imposed at the Governor's suggestion, tended to equalise the incomings and out-goings, and this aid, with the transfer from the Colonial Bank to the Treasury of 600*l.* for escheated property, enabled the financial year to be closed with but a limited outstanding liability.

4. The estimated revenue was fairly sustained, while the expenditure partook of an ordinary character, save with the exception of the outlay for the Yaws Hospital (which is met by special taxation), and embraced the annual instalment of the hurricane loan (804*l.*), and the contribution to the waterworks sinking fund, and the interest on the loan (510*l.*).

DOMINICA.

5. The current liabilities amounted to 1,878*l.* at the close of the year, with an available balance of 1,180*l.*; while the special liabilities were: hurricane loan, 1,579*l.*; waterworks loan, less sinking fund, 5,565*l.*; and the Yaws loan of 1,000; in all 8,144*l.*

6. The usual tables of the year's total expenditure—(A.) revenue and expenditure; (B.) principal sources of revenue and expenditure; (C.) imports and exports; (D.) principal articles of export; (E.) shipping; and (F.) tonnage for the past seven years are appended.

7. The public debt is being gradually liquidated, but two more instalments of the hurricane loan of (1,600*l.*) remain unpaid. The sinking fund for the waterworks loan (5,900*l.*) is being punctually remitted to and invested by the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

8. The Inspector of Schools reports:—"Improvement contiuues "to be made in the state of elementary education, bad though it "still continues to be, three new schools have been placed on the "list. The average attendance has increased from 600 in 1875 "to 1,171 in 1878, or over 95 per cent. This undoubtedly is so "far satisfactory, but it is paiuful to report that out of 24 schools "only one has attained to a first class, and three to the second "class; whilst 10 schools remain in the third class, and 10 "others have altogether failed to come up to the required "standard.

9. Legislation was limited, but not unimportant. Bills embodying the general taxes for the upkeep of the Presidency were renewed for one year, and the usual Appropriation Acts were passed; provision was made for continuing the tax in support of the Yaws Hospital until December 1880. The property of the Anglican Church (now disendowed) was handed over to, and vested in, a Church Council; and sanction was accorded to the Federal Legislation to pass laws relating to the superannuation of public officers, and for the creation of a fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of such officers.

10. The cultivation of cocoa, coffee, and limes is being materially extended, but the want of labour and capital are serious obstacles to the development of the resources of this highly productive Island. I was sanguine enough to hope that ere this some enterprising person in England would be attracted by the facilities of obtaining land, unsurpassed in Her Majesty's Dominions for fertility, and have established a company for the cultivation of coffee, &c. The Island possesses far greater attractions to the capitalist than Ceylon, its climate, rainfall, and soil being, as the records prove, well adapted for coffee cultivation. In point of natural beauty or scientific research it affords a field for recreation or study well worth the consideration of the tourist.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary. President.

A.—REVENUE and EXPENDITURE. From 1872 to 1878.

Years	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1872 - -	17,310	17,162
1873 - -	16,424	17,544
1874 - -	15,022	17,456
1875 - -	21,682	21,793
1876 - -	17,794	18,402
1877 - -	19,162	19,154
1878 - -	20,998	19,918

B.—PRINCIPAL SOURCES of REVENUE.

———	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Import duty - - -	7,163	6,505	5,813	6,678	6,709	6,313	7,358
Tonnage and harbour - -	680	633	644	819	689	677	721
Export duty - - -	1,146	1,257	1,225	1,478	1,289	1,213	1,376
Excise duty - - -	3,106	2,717	2,533	2,849	2,469	2,609	2,434
Stamp duty - - -	—	—	—	—	207	352	332
Licenses - - -	1,411	1,319	1,054	1,201	1,167	1,118	1,191
Fees, fines, and forfeitures -	1,082	956	1,022	1,184	1,093	1,114	1,236
Rents - - - -	146	107	94	81	84	86	48
House, income, assessed, and street taxes - - -	737	684	831	688	787	912	715
Road tax - - -	1,724	1,492	1,577	1,693	1,757	1,627	1,551
Waterworks - - -	—	—	—	5,000	117	1,015	84
Extraordinary: Yaws tax - - -	—	—	—	—	1,395	1,429	1,524

PRINCIPAL ITEMS of EXPENDITURE.

———	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Civil establishments - -	2,234	2,480	2,228	2,014	3,015	2,752	2,011
Judicial - - -	2,281	2,245	2,722	2,815	3,097	2,824	2,631
Revenue, Treasury - -	1,591	1,632	1,519	1,501	1,522	1,310	1,462
Police - - -	1,307	1,333	1,247	1,356	1,369	1,326	1,385
Gaol - - - -	553	571	624	630	824	773	772
Education - - -	740	708	635	673	785	725	786
Poor house - - -	1,557	1,545	1,951	2,024	1,778	1,632	1,713
Works and buildings - -	1,721	989	1,652	343	971	469	486
Roads and bridges - -	2,227	2,388	1,574	1,089	1,181	1,206	1,248
Lights and signals - -	126	138	156	159	195	176	115
Board of health - -	914	59	153	59	31	29	89
Printing - - -	384	272	225	256	315	253	244
Pensions - - -	119	400	373	349	326	292	272
Hurricane loan, &c. - -	817	804	804	804	959	929	952
Miscellaneous - - -	1,580	1,951	1,501	1,170	1,023	1,067	675
Telegraph - - -	—	—	—	—	200	400	400
Yaws - - - -	—	—	—	—	775	2,058	1,885

C.—IMPORTS.

—	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1872 - -	22,257	39,976	6,651	—
1873 - -	18,663	37,307	6,582	—
1874 - -	16,926	33,211	6,577	—
1875 - -	17,245	37,217	7,848	—
1876 - -	17,240	36,175	7,459	44
1877 - -	12,433	37,395	8,066	1,028
1878 - -	22,953	31,340	9,267	2,200

EXPORTS.

—	Great Britain.	British West Indies.	Foreign West Indies.	United States.
	£	£	£	£
1872 - -	56,606	3,945	1,034	259
1873 - -	54,290	4,001	3,591	136
1874 - -	60,004	5,460	2,256	—
1875 - -	58,561	5,946	4,136	2,978
1876 - -	66,127	6,233	4,668	—
1877 - -	62,663	6,778	5,235	3,024
1878 - -	72,007	4,762	7,796	138

D.—PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of EXPORT.

—	Sugar.		Molasses.		Rum.		Coffee.	
	Cwts.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Pounds.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
1872	61,418	51,558	105,282	1,921	24,630	1,543	12,466	337
1873	69,300	51,927	95,613	2,081	16,282	1,140	13,319	403
1874	65,903	54,727	70,849	2,312	32,498	2,280	12,046	395
1875	74,446	56,105	88,140	4,797	17,041	1,443	10,990	328
1876	61,734	61,474	98,449	5,421	18,912	1,512	28,240	1,015
1877	57,751	60,729	78,679	3,029	7,660	624	35,382	1,109
1878	66,404	59,728	117,946	3,753	10,076	704	18,216	562

—	Cocoa.		Farine Manioc.		Lime Juice.	
	Pounds.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
		£		£		£
1872 -	204,773	2,546	246	63	5,932	691
1873 -	186,688	2,216	741	180	7,317	738
1874 -	189,782	2,164	147½	34	12,462	1,601
1875 -	200,113	2,661	870	131	8,400	1,824
1876 -	336,151	4,223	629	120	4,859	1,834
1877 -	367,146	7,430	873	123	6,201	1,594
1878 -	342,945	12,572	2,242	324	10,981	2,261

	Tamarinds.		Logwood.		Firewood.	
	Packages.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Cords.	Value.
		£		£		£
1872 -	131	55	20	33	853	453
1873 -	260	173	8	14	1,139	594
1874 -	251	252	105	165	1,474	743
1875 -	235	188	153	250	1,520	794
1876 -	214	148	82	80	1,442	732
1877 -	223	220	29	72	1,267	651
1878 -	238	297	18¼	33	1,144	645

E.—SHIPPING.

	Entered.			Cleared.		
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1872 -	479	9,581	1,625	492	9,151	1,643
1873 -	419	9,242	1,582	419	9,459	1,612
1874 -	361	9,549	1,407	357	9,636	1,421
1875 -	529	12,657	2,009	503	12,096	1,923
1876 -	435	13,250	1,957	428	13,201	1,958
1877 -	476	12,755	1,980	469	13,060	1,988
1878 -	471	13,278	1,879	442	12,697	1,875

F.—TONNAGE.

	Entered.	Cleared.
British - - -	9,946	9,279
French - - -	674	893
American - -	2,364	2,288
Danish - - -	77	132
Swedish - - -	10	—
Dutch - - -	197	105
Spanish - - -	—	—
Total - -	13,268	12,697

DOMINICA.

STATEMENT of LIABILITIES and ASSETS, Presidency of Dominica, 31st December 1878.

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Savings bank - - - -	175	2	2½			
Police reward fund - - -	22	11	0			
Administration of unrepresented estates -	36	2	8			
Loans :						
Hurricane loan - - -	1,596	13	4			
Yaws loan - - - -	1,000	0	0			
Waterworks loan - - -	5,900	0	0			
Escheat Estate Court - - -	614	15	2½			
				9,345	4	5

Assets.

Cash balance in Treasury - -	1,079	13	7½			
Savings bank deposit account - -	86	2	3			
Waterworks sinking fund - -	335	0	0			
	1,500	15	10½			
Excess of liabilities - - -	7,844	8	6½			
				9,345	4	5

GAMBIA.

No. 14.

Governor ROWE, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
October 22, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit two copies of the Gambia Blue Book for 1878, together with the very full and able report of the Administrator on the transactions of the year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Bathurst,
October 10, 1879.

SIR

I HAVE the honour to herewith transmit to you three copies of the Gambia Blue Book for the year 1878, and also my report thereon.

Owing to the very limited staff in this Settlement, and to the frequently interrupted and intermittent manner in which the Blue Book has necessarily been compiled, it has not been found practicable to have the work completed at the time laid down in the Colonial Regulations.

The following remarks and comparative statements with reference to the returns of the Treasury and Customs Departments for 1876 have been furnished by Mr. Berkeley, Treasurer and Collector of Customs.

Revenue.

The revenue of the year was as follows:—

	£	£
Fixed revenue:—		
Customs - - - -	21,968	
Licenses - - - -	1,003	
Land and other rents - - -	811	
Fees and fines - - - -	319	
Postage - - - -	56	
Auction duty - - - -	42	
		24,199
Incidental revenue - - - -		216
Total - - - -		24,415

	£
Brought forward - -	24,415
In 1877, however, 2,091*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* bonds given in that year and not payable until 1878, were improperly included in the revenue accounts of 1877. The money was received in 1878 and should be added to the other receipts of that year	2,091
This gives the revenue proper of the year, received within the year, and when is added - -	26,506
Parliamentary grant for postal service - -	1,200
There is shown - - - - -	27,706

the total receipts available for the expenses of the year 1878.

On a comparison of the fixed revenue of the year 1878 with that of 1877 an increase is shown under:—

	£
Customs - - - - - -	3,137
but this is taking the customs revenue of 1878, exclusive of the 2,091*l.* bonds incorrectly shown in 1877.	
If this amount be withdrawn from 1877 and added to 1878 - - - - - -	2,091
There is exhibited an increase of - - -	5,228

This increase is owing to the large export of ground nuts, the heavy crop of which not only increased the amount received for export duty on the article itself, but increased the receipts under tonnage and revenue derived from the duty on cotton goods, gunpowder, and other articles used for barter with the natives for their nuts.

The comparative yearly statement of the Blue Book gives in detail the items of increase and decrease, as well as the causes of such. By a reference to this return, it will be seen that with the exception of licenses, which fell off 175*l.*, the changes in the other branches of revenue were trifling.

The following table marked A. exhibits at a glance the receipts of 1878, and also the revenue proper of the year.

A.—STATEMENT of REVENUE of the Year 1878.

Heads of Receipts.	Treasury Receipts, 1878.	Less Arrears of 1877, and Cross Entries, &c.	Revenue of 1878 received during the Year.	Arrears of 1878 to be paid in 1879.	Customs Bonds of 1877 paid in 1878 and improperly included in Revenue of 1877.	Total Revenue of 1878.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs:						
Import duty on—						
Wine - -	495 9 7	—	495 9 7	—	356 16 0	852 5 7
Spirits - -	2,247 3 0	—	2,247 3 0	—	481 3 6	2,728 6 6
Tobacco -	1,331 0 5	—	1,331 0 5	—	962 2 7	2,293 3 0
Sugar - -	532 4 7	—	532 4 7	—	—	532 4 7
Cola nuts -	1,889 2 8	—	1,889 2 8	—	—	1,889 2 8
Palm wine -	445 7 0	—	445 7 0	—	—	445 7 0
Guns, &c. -	1,361 8 0	—	1,361 8 0	—	230 16 0	1,592 4 0
Gunpowder -	320 13 4	—	320 13 4	—	60 5 0	380 18 4
Bricks - -	51 8 7	—	51 8 7	—	—	51 8 7
Import duty on—						
Ground nuts -	7,998 15 7	—	7,998 15 7	—	—	7,998 15 7
Hides - -	119 16 8	—	119 16 8	—	—	119 16 8
Quarantine dues	95 11 0	—	95 11 0	—	—	95 11 0
Tonnage dues -	2,890 4 0	—	2,890 4 0	—	—	2,890 4 0
Pilotage - -	459 6 0	—	459 6 0	—	—	459 6 0
Ad valorem duty	1,730 13 6	—	1,730 13 6	—	—	1,730 13 6
£	21,968 3 11	—	21,968 3 11	—	2,091 3 1	24,059 7 0
Licenses - -	1,003 0 0	—	1,003 0 0	—	—	1,003 0 0
Land revenue -	198 0 6	*2 14 7	195 5 11	—	—	195 5 11
Rents, exclusive of land - -	711 9 10	*95 6 10	616 3 0	27 14 7	—	643 17 7
Fines, &c. - -	336 3 1	*17 2 5	319 0 8	—	—	319 0 8
Miscellaneous receipts - -	1,857 8 5	†1,855 9 11	1 18 6	—	—	1 18 6
Reimbursements in aid - -	223 10 11	—	223 10 11	11 15 0	—	215 5 11
Postage - -	55 17 5	—	55 17 5	—	—	55 17 5
Governm[t] steamer -	10 16 0	—	10 16 0	—	—	10 16 0
Auction duty -	41 16 2	—	41 16 2	—	—	41 16 2
Parliamentary grant - -	1,200 0 0	—	1,200 0 0	—	—	1,200 0 0
£	27,586 6 3	1,970 13 9	25,615 12 6	39 9 7	2,091 3 1	27,746 5 2

* Arrears. † Adjusting entries, &c.

Expenditure.

	£
The expenditure of the year, within the year, as detailed in the Blue Book was - - -	17,108
This includes expenditure which has been recovered as "refunds" and overpayments recovered to the amount of 30*l.*	
The several items which make up this total will be found noted in red ink in the Blue Book, against the various services from which they arose. Deducting this sum - - - - -	30
from 17,108*l.* the expenditure above stated, a net expenditure remains of - - - -	17,078

The expenditure of 1877, as stated in the Blue Book report for that year, was 18,961*l.*, but this included arrears of previous years which are shown separately in 1878.

The comparative statement of expenditure in the Blue Book gives in detail the items of increase and decrease and the causes thereof.

GAMBIA.

The following table marked B., prepared on the same principle as that of the revenue marked A., clearly shows the expenditure proper of 1878:—

B.—STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE for the Year 1878.

Heads of Service.	Treasury Disbursements, 1878.	Less Arrears of former Years.	Expenditure of 1878 during the Year.	Arrears of Expenditure, 1878, on 1st January 1879.	Total Expenditure of 1878.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, fixed	10,140 9 11	215 2 4	9,925 7 7	250 5 7	10,175 13 2
„ provisional	405 8 10	25 0 0	380 8 10	45 7 6	425 16 4
Allowances	229 8 0	—	229 8 0	—	229 8 0
Office contingencies*	23 3 8	0 14 4	22 9 4	0 12 9	23 2 1
	10,798 10 5	240 16 8	10,557 13 9	296 5 10	10,853 19 7
Pensions	1,027 18 5	245 18 4	782 0 1	216 1 8	998 1 9
Revenue services, exclusive of establishment	199 7 11	0 12 3	198 15 8	—	198 15 8
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishment	46 11 6	—	46 11 6	0 6 0	46 17 6
Ecclesiastical, exclusive of establishment	12 0 0	—	12 0 0	—	12 0 0
Charitable allowances	160 10 0	—	160 10 0	—	160 10 0
Education, exclusive of establishment	354 1 2	—	354 1 2	—	354 1 2
Hospitals, exclusive of establishment	300 17 10½	2 0 6	298 17 4½	20 6 8	319 4 0½
Police and gaols, exclusive of establishment	979 2 1½	3 13 5	975 8 8½	10 14 9	986 3 5½
Rent†	33 13 4	—	33 13 4	2 10 0	36 3 4
Transport	356 5 5	35 0 0	321 5 5	1 1 6	322 6 11
Conveyance of mails	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	600 0 0	600 0 0	1,200 0 0
Works and buildings	456 2 5	3 18 0	452 4 5	1 0 0	453 4 5
Roads, streets, and bridges	351 7 6	—	351 7 6	—	351 7 6
Government vessels, exclusive of establishment	275 16 11	—	275 16 11	0 8 0	276 4 11
Aborigines	335 17 0	75 10 0	260 7 0	108 15 0	369 2 0
Drawbacks, &c.	100 16 1½	—	100 16 1½	—	100 16 1½
Miscellaneous services—	£ s. d.				
	4,999 11 5				
Less	168 17 6‡				
	4,830 13 11				
Less cross entries	1,812 2 10				
	3,018 11 1				
	3,018 11 1	1,692 0 1	1,326 11 0	10 12 8	1,337 3 8
	19,807 9 2½	2,699 9 3	17,107 19 11½	1,268 2 1	18,376 2 0½
Add cross entries	1,812 2 10				
	21,619 12 0½				

* 161*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* of this amount included in Treasury books under "Miscellaneous Services" and remittance to Sierra Leone.

† 7*l.* 10*s.* of this amount included in Treasury books under "Remittance to Sierra Leone, Miscellaneous Services."

‡ Abstracted under establishment and rent.

The financial position of the Settlement at the close of the year 1878, was as follows:—

Assets.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance in Colonial chest	6,818 13 11	
Balance in Crown Agent's hands	2,310 7 8	
Advances due to Colony	54 4 7	
Arrears of rent. Combo	36 2 0	
Other arrears of revenue	39 9 7	
		9,258 17 9

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward - -				9,258	17	9
Due Parliamentary Grant Postal Service - - - -	900	0	0			
Due deposits - - -	419	4	2½			
„ Sierra Leone Government -	87	13	1			
„ on account of pensions, and outstanding accounts by Crown Agents - - - -	239	2	7			
Due on account of salaries and outstanding account in the Colony -	391	17	7			
				2,037	17	5½
Excess of assets - -				7,221	0	3½
From this may be now deducted - -				36	2	0
Arrears of ground rent combo, which is not recoverable, leaves an excess of assets of - -				7,184	18	3½

Imports.

	£
The total value of the imports of 1878 was -	164,941
„ „ 1877 „ -	93,088
Showing an increase in 1878 of - -	71,853

This, however, does not exactly exhibit the real state of affairs. The value of the imports of 1878 includes 17,500*l.* specie. Specie was not shown in the imports of 1877, but a very large sum, not however equal to that imported in 1878, was brought into the Settlement.

	£
From the apparent increase of - -	71,853
Deduct the value of specie in 1878 - -	17,500
The remainder - - -	54,353

gives the amount of increase which can properly be considered in a comparison of the imports of 1877 and 1878, as shown on the Blue Books of those years.

The increase of 54,353*l.*, equal to more than half of the value of the whole of the imports of 1877, must be viewed in conjunction with the increase of 1877 over 1876. It is most important so to look at this apparently wonderful advance of the Gambia imports, for apparent is it only; without doubt the imports of 1878 were considerably over those of 1877, inasmuch as the ground nut crop was larger in 1878, but 1876 was a very bad ground nut year,

GAMBIA.

and the surplus of imports, which was considerable, was turned over to the use of 1877, decreasing the imports of that year to the extent of such surplus.

	£	Tons.
The export of ground nuts in 1876 was		9,986
The value of imports of ground nuts in 1876 was - - - -	89,350	
The export of ground nuts in 1877 was		15,939
The value of imports of ground nuts in 1877 was - - - -	93,088	
	3,738	5,953

The comparison shows an increase of 3,738*l.* imports, for an increased export of 5,953 tons of nuts.

Comparing now the value of imports and the quantity of nuts exported in 1877 and 1878:—

	£	Tons.
The export of ground nuts in 1877 was		15,939
The value of imports of ground nuts in 1877 was - - - -	93,088	
The export of ground nuts in 1878 was		23,996
The value of imports of ground nuts (less specie) in 1878 was - -	147,441	
	54,353	8,057

The comparison of these two years shows an increase of 54,353*l.* imports, for an increased exprt of nuts of 8,057 tons.

A rise of 5,900 tons in 1877 added to value of imports 3,700*l.*, while a rise of 8,000 tons in 1878 added to value of imports 54,300*l.*

There can be no doubt that the main cause of the strongly marked difference is owing, as before stated, to the heavy surplus of trading goods at the close of 1876.

It will be seen from the return in the Blue Book that there was an increase in almost every article of import; this was consequent on the very large crop of ground nuts.

The principal articles showing an increase were:—

	£		£
Cola nuts - -	7,200	Gunpowder -	1,400
Beads - -	570	Sugar - -	700
Guns - -	4,200	Tobacco - -	1,100
Hardware - -	700	Cordage - -	560
Haberdashery -	700	Cutlasses - -	380
Rice - -	6,670	Empty bags -	1,370
Spirits - -	4,400	Wearing apparel -	630
Cotton goods -	15,100		

The following is a comparative statement of the quantities or value of the principal articles imported during the years 1876, 1877, and 1878.

		1876.	1877.	1878.
Ale and porter	Val.	£792	1,257	1,211
Bags, empty	„	£551	914	2,292
Bread and biscuit	„	£647	881	919
Cotton goods	„	£17,014	20,271	35,375
Cordage	„	£658	377	946
Cutlasses and swords	„	£274	374	760
Cola nuts	„	£18,723	15,405	22,670
Flour	Brls.	668	511	590
Guns	No.	2,829	3,719	10,371
Gunpowder	Val.	£850	1,780	3,257
Hardware	„	£1,594	1,968	2,705
Haberdashery	„	£1,562	2,242	2,989
Lumber	„	£1,021	1,210	1,364
Rice	Tons.	1,720	656	1,216
Salt	„	270	1,726	2,015
Spirits—				
Gin	Gals.	3,166	3,195	6,479
Absinthe	„	1,199	1,229	2,012
Rum	„	37,478	30,512	65,304
Brandy	„	557	830	672
Other spirits	„	32	38	1,044
Sugar	Lbs.	51,600	71,700	120,100
Specie	Val.	Not shown in 1876.	Not shown in 1877.	£17,540
Tobacco	Lbs.	359,550	305,406	364,343
Wine	Gals.	12,887	19,374	23,406

Exports.

	£
The total value of the exports of 1878 was	204,299
„ „ „ 1877 „	125,052
Showing an increase in favour of 1878 of	79,247

The cause of this increase was an increased export of ground nuts in 1878 to the value of 80,397*l.*

The export of ground nuts during the year 1878 was the largest for the decade ending 1878.

In 1869 were exported	9,282 tons.
„ 1870 „	13,481 „
„ 1871 „	15,707 „
„ 1872 „	12,999 „
„ 1873 „	11,529 „
„ 1874 „	19,754 „
„ 1875 „	19,019 „
„ 1876 „	9,986 „
„ 1877 „	15,939 „
„ 1878 „	29,396 „

GAMBIA.

The following is a comparative statement of the principal articles exported in the years 1876, 1877, and 1878.

—	1876.	1877.	1878.
Cotton, raw - - Lbs.	9,417	19,474 and 11 pkgs.	6,605 and 2 bags.
Ground nuts - - Tons.	9,986	15,939	23,996
Hides - - - No.	18,601	17,953	15,380
Palm kernels - - Tons.	51	104	87 and 91 bags.
Wax - - - „	60	47	42

Shipping.

—	Vessels.	Tons.
Entered during the year - - -	146	64,213 with cargoes.
„ - - -	32	12,246 in ballast.
Total - - -	178	76,459
Cleared during the year - - -	131	67,127 with cargoes.
„ „ - - -	46	2,296 in ballast.
Total - - -	177	69,423

The following table shows the number of vessels entered and cleared at Bathurst in the years 1876, 1877, and 1878.

Entered.

—	1876.		1877.		1878.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
With cargo - -	142	46,906	142	53,663	146	64,213
In ballast - -	35	7,657	34	7,785	32	12,246
Total -	177	54,563	176	61,448	178	76,459
This includes mail steamers - -	Not separately shown in 1876.		34	35,697	33	36,912

Cleared.

—	1876.		1877.		1878.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
With cargo - -	115	53,817	121	58,965	131	67,127
In ballast - -	71	1,208	63	1,201	46	2,296
Total -	186	55,025	184	60,166	177	69,423
This includes mail steamers - -	Not separately shown in 1876.		34	35,697	33	36,912

The foregoing statements and comparative tables with reference to revenue, expenditure, imports, and exports are so clear and comprehensive that they need no supplemental observations from me.

The few following remarks, however, may not be without some interest.

The year 1878 was remarkable in having enjoyed a larger amount of trade than any of the nine preceding years, whether we regard the value of imports, the value of exports, or the amount of revenue as the index of the relative yearly prosperity of the Settlement.

Taking a still longer period for comparison, viz., one of 20 years, that is, from 1859 to 1878, I find that, with two exceptions, the last-named year exhibited the largest value amount of imports of any of the years embraced in the two decades. The exceptions were the years 1863 and 1867, but the general depression of trade in Europe, and expecially in England, in 1878, considerably reduced the price of Continental and English goods as compared with former years; and, moreover, through competition, and by reason of improved appliances and machinery and also increased facilities of transit, the tendency, as time goes on, is towards the cheapening of textile and other goods, and those considerations must be borne in mind in any comparative statement of value of imports as regards the present and the past.

The value of exports is, however, a much surer test of the commerce and prosperity of a country than that of imports, and I find that only in one of the 19 preceding years (viz., 1867) did the value of exports exceed that record in 1878. But although the value of exports may be, to a certain extent, an index to the prosperity of a country, and is undoubtedly a measure of its purchasing power, it is not an unconditional measure of a country's industry and agriculture, amount or quantity of produce and manufactures being the true test of these.

Looking at exports in this latter aspect, 1878 stands at the head of all the years of which I have seen any record, as it likewise does in respect of amount of revenue.

With regard to expenditure, however, the case is different, for the expenditure of 1878 was exceeded in the first of the two decades taken for comparison by that respectively of two years (1863 and 1867), and in the last decade by that respectively of seven years (1869-70, and 1873-77).

No doubt the principal cause of the increased exports and revenue was the large crop of ground nuts, but the extent of this crop was not only due to the excellence and productiveness of the harvest, but also, I believe, to the fact of a larger area of land being brought under cultivation.

It must be understood that in speaking of imports, exports, and crops, the Settlement only, or even chiefly, is not intended to be represented or included, as by far the larger amount of imports are absorbed by, and of exports come from, the countries bordering the Settlement and the river.

GAMBIA.

Finance.

The financial result of the year may be shortly stated as follows:—

	£
Total revenue proper of year inclusive of Parliamenary Grant of 1,200*l.* - - -	27,746
Total expenditure proper of year (exclusive of arrears of past years) - - - -	18,376
Balance or excess of revenue over expenditure -	9,370

This amount, however, was reduced considerably by the discharge of arrears of expenditure of former years, so that at the end of 1878 the assets, after all liabilities had been accounted for, stood at the sum of 7,184*l.* This financial position of the Settlement compares very favourably, I think, with that of any other period.

Militia.

Neither of the two militia forces were called out for training during the year.

Public Works.

No public works of much magnitude were undertaken during the year, but considerable repairs and alterations were carried out at the police barracks, the gaol, the public market, the fort at Cape St. Mary's, the buildings at McCarthy's Island, and at the post office and custom house, and a new roof was put on the store at the coal depôt.

The necessary repairs to roads, streets, and bridges were also executed.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1 was a Supplemental Supply Ordinance for the year 1876.

No. 2, an Ordinance to establish the fees to be taken in the several courts of the Settlement.

No. 3, an Ordinance to provide for the return of jurors.

No. 4, an Ordinance for making better provision for levying a rate for local improvements.

No. 5, an Ordinance to amend the Supplemental Supply Ordinance 1876.

Education.

There appears to have been no educational progress during the year. Indeed, as compared with 1877, a considerable falling off in the number of scholars took place, amounting to a decrease of 285 children, or within a fraction of 30 per cent.

With reference to the subject of education on the West Coast, I cannot help observing that it seems a pity that more is not done in the way of educating the hand as well as the head, and that the usefulness and dignity of manual labour—agricultural,

manufactural, structural, and artistic—are not more impressed on the minds of the young, and that the teaching of useful handicrafts does not form a portion of the voluntary subjects in the curriculum of the ordinary schools. In fact, if the schools were industrial as well as scholastic much benefit would result.

Unhappily, as a very general rule in this country, so soon as a boy learns to read and write and acquires a smattering of elementary arithmetic he deems himself a gentleman, and aspires to be at the very least a merchant's clerk or a trader, and he would receive as an insult the slightest hint that there is other work in which he might be as usefully employed as that of tallying bushels of ground nuts, or sitting behind a counter disposing of trade guns and sophisticated rum and gin.

It is a very great evil and a great drawback to the development of this country that the natives are so addicted to the unproductive occupation of distribution, and so averse to that of production, and, unfortunately, such education as they get appears to enhance and intensify those peculiarities.

Agriculture.

Agriculture is in a very backward state, and no improvement in the system took place during the year. As far as I can learn it appears that a larger area of land was cultivated in 1878 than heretofore, and to this circumstance, but still more especially to the productiveness of the harvest, and not to any improved method of cultivation, must be attributed the large crop of ground nuts which were secured.

The native is conservative in almost everything, but perhaps more so with regard to system of husbandry than with respect to anything else.

No proper rotation of crops is observed, the same sort of crop being grown from year to year on the same portion of land, and this without any attempt at manuring, sub-soil ploughing, or irrigation. It is only when the great natural fertility of the soil becomes well nigh exhausted that the land is allowed to remain fallow, and a fresh lot is broken up for cultivation; this expedient being easily feasible in this country from the small proportion of population to area of land.

Manufactures.

With the exception of the hand weaving of cotton (native grown) into narrow strips of cloth, called "bandy cloths," and which are for native use, there are no manufactures properly so-called in the country. There are a few native goldsmiths to be found, but their work is much inferior to that executed by the goldsmiths of the Gold Coast.

The bandy cloths, which are woven in strips about 5 inches wide and 2 yards long, are sewn together so as to form an article of clothing called a pagn, which latter is simply an oblong sheet or shawl, 2 yards long by about 1½ wide.

GAMBIA.

These pagns are very durable, and some of them are of considerable value.

Bandy cloths are much used for bartering; in fact, for the purposes of purchase and barter they are more prized by the natives, and even by the merchants, than specie.

At Bathurst a few cutters for the river trade are built occasionally, but there are no regular shipbuilding establishments.

Criminal Statistics.

There was but very little difference in the amount and character of crime in 1878, as compared with the two preceding years.

The number of convictions, summary and in the higher courts, were, for the three years, as follows:—

—	1876.	1877.	1878.
Number of convictions -	272	263	260

Comparing, however, the years 1876–77–78 with the three preceding years, viz., 1873–74–75, I find a considerable diminution shown in the number of convictions during the later period, the average being—

For the years 1873–75 - - 341 convictions.
„ „ 1876–78 - - 265 „
Giving an average decrease of - 76 „

or somewhat over 22 per cent.

Concluding Observations.

Commercially and financially the year 1878 was a very favourable one, and the crop of the chief article of export, viz., ground nuts, was the largest ever produced in the countries which form what may be called the export area appertaining to the Settlement.

Unfortunately, however, there was a dark as well as a bright side to the picture, as the year became towards its close so unhealthy that an unusually high rate of mortality occurred amongst the European residents of Bathurst.

Out of a small European community, averaging between 50 and 60 persons for the year, including the floating population of ships, 13 persons died, of which number 10 died during the last quarter of the year.

Of the resident European community, averaging 33 persons for the year, 7 died; amongst whom were the Rev. F. Renoun, Father Superior of the Catholic Mission, and who had not long before arrived at Bathurst; a sister of mercy, named Sister St. Clare, who had for many years assiduously and unostentatiously ministered to the wants of the sick poor, without regard to creed, colour,

or country; the Rev. Mr. Lamb, who was an earnest and zealous Wesleyan Missionary; and the Chief Magistrate, Mr. John Carr, junr., who may be looked upon as a European, and who was an officer of much promise, and one who had gained golden opinions from all classes of the community during his brief period of service.

But although this Colony had to deplore the loss of several valuable lives, the neighbouring French Settlements had to mourn the deaths of an appalling number of their white inhabitants, who were carried off by the yellow fever, which raged as a widespread and severe epidemic throughout the French possessions adjoining the Gambia.

The usual and frequently recurring hostilities among native tribes continued to disturb and harass the countries bordering the river, and will, I fear, continue to do so as long as rival ambitions, lust of conquest, greed of gain by loot and robbery, and by capture of slaves, are predominant in the native breast, and are only restrained by such conditions as want of opportunity or adverse chances of success.

I have, &c.

(Signed) V. SKIPTON GOULDSBURY,

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Administrator.

&c. &c. &c.

Sierra Leone.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 15.

Governor Sir J. LONGDEN, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
October 21, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Ceylon for 1878, and to submit the following report on its contents.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue for 1878 amounted to Rs. 16,462,905 59¼ or 1,543,321*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, at 1*s.* 10½*d.* the rupee, which is the equivalent adopted since 1874 for purposes of comparison, showing a decrease of Rs. 564,096 7¾ or 52,884*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* as compared with the revenue for 1877. The expenditure on the votes of the year amounted to Rs. 15,450,633 77 or 1,448,496*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, being an increase of Rs. 119,794 35½ or 11,230*l.* 14*s.* 5¼*d.* on the similar expenditure for 1877. In addition to this expenditure there was expended during the year a sum of Rs. 1,329,514 62 or 124,641*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* from balances brought forward from previous years, which brings the gross expenditure of the year to Rs. 16,780,148 39 or 1,573,138*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* This total exhibits a decrease on the gross expenditure of 1877 of Rs. 648,849 80½ or 60,829*l.* 13*s.* 4¾*d.*, but it should be remembered that in the gross expenditure of 1877 was included in addition to Rs. 898,158 78 or 84,202*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* brought forward from unexpended balances on previous years' votes, a sum of Rs. 1,200,000 or 112,500*l.* charged by special Ordinance against surplus funds of past years on account of the coast line from Colombo to Kalutara. If this special appropriation be omitted from the calculation it will be seen that the expenditure on the votes of the year and on balances of unexpended votes of previous years brought forward exceeded the corresponding expenditure for 1877 by Rs. 551,150 19½ or 51,670*l.* 6*s.* 7¾*d.*

3. The following are the principal items of increase and decrease.

Revenue.

Arrears of revenue of former years show an increase of Rs. 125,560 63¼, which has accrued chiefly in the recoveries of the Western Province, and is attributable to increased exertions in the collection of outstandings.

Customs.—The considerable falling off of Rs. 233,527 45 in the customs receipts is due to a decrease in the importation of general goods, especially cotton manufactures, and in the exportation of plumbago, the royalty on which was moreover reduced by one half, that is, from 50 to 25 cents. per cwt. from 1st January 1878.

Land Sales. — There is a decrease under this head of Rs. 267,968 86, but the sales during 1877 were unprecedentedly large, and the sales in 1878 realised the considerable sum of Rs. 1,282,403 97½.

Land Revenue.—The harvests throughout the Island were generally better than in the preceding year, and the increase under the sub-head paddy is Rs. 21,085 38, the revenue having amounted to Rs. 1,025,475 33. The increase of Rs. 13,562 11 under the sub-head fine grain in the rents sold in the Western Province is not the result of any increased cultivation, but is due to the fact that the rents for the third and fourth quarters of 1877 were remitted by the Government in consequence of the distress then prevailing in the Province.

Licenses.—The revenue under the sub-head arrack and toddy exhibits a decrease of Rs. 165,263 20½ which is to be accounted for mainly by a suppression of taverns in the coffee districts. The increase in licenses for retail of salt is only apparent, as there is a corresponding decrease under the head "Sale of Government Property," owing to the sale of salt in the Northern Province having been rented in 1878.

Stamps.—The increase of Rs. 29,796 4 under the sub-head general stamps is noticeable, and there is a slight falling off under the item postage stamps.

Government Vessels.—The increase of Rs. 26,135 is owing to the "Serendib" having been continuously at work, while in the previous year she was laid up for several months for repairs.

Sale of Government Property. — The large increases of Rs. 79,159 85 and Rs. 119,555 79¼ under the sub-heads of salt and timber are due respectively to an unusually large sale of salt for exportation and to the extension of the operations of the Forest Department.

Reimbursements.—The increase of Rs. 40,425 47 under the sub-head of cost of police within municipalities arises from recoveries having been made from the municipalities more promptly during the year. The decrease of Rs. 21,035 36½ under the sub-head value of prison labour is merely a matter of account, the labour of the convicts on the breakwater having been debited with the cost of prison buildings at Mahara and at the breakwater.

Pearl Fishery.—There was no fishery during the year. The small sum of Rs. 588 17 appearing under this head is the amount realized by the sale of the right to fish for pearl oysters in the Jampalakanam Bay in the Eastern Province.

Railway Receipts. — The receipts for the year were Rs. 3,444,423 87 or less than those for 1877 by Rs. 171,980 17.

CEYLON.

The decrease is due to diminished goods traffic consequent on the shortness of the coffee crop during the year.

Expenditure.

The expenditure shows increases under the various heads amounting to Rs. 872,590 39, and decreases amounting to Rs. 752,796 3½, or a net increase of Rs. 119,794 35½.

On establishments which include fixed and provisional salaries, contingencies, and allowances, there is an increase of Rs. 207,344 19. Of this the sum of Rs. 107,400 was absorbed by the additions granted under the sanction of the Secretary of State to the salaries of the Governor, and the first three classes of the Civil Service, and to certain other public officers, and for the details of the remainder, I beg to refer you to the statement of the Auditor-General, which is contained in the Blue Book.

Under services exclusive of establishments there are increases amounting to Rs. 647,049 16 and decreases amounting to Rs. 734,598 99½, the net result being a decrease of Rs. 87,549 83½.

Roads, streets, and bridges show an increase of Rs. 124,792 89, and interest an increase of Rs. 47,404 21, which results from the loans for the construction of the breakwater.

The decrease of Rs. 276,717 60 under the head Colonial Store is partly attributable to a smaller expenditure on works and buildings on which there is a decrease of Rs. 82,417 29.

The decrease of Rs. 182, 600 36½ under "Miscellaneous" is apparent only, as loss on exchange which was formerly brought to account under this head, and which amounted in 1878 to Rs. 276,605 37, is entered under the new head of "Exchange."

Railway services show an increase of Rs. 73,665 33 owing to the purchase of four locomotives during the year, and railway construction a decrease of Rs. 129,000. I may explain in reference to this item that there was no actual outlay under this head during the year from the votes of the year, the cost of construction on the Kalutara branch having been met from surplus funds appropriated to the purpose by a special Ordinance, but a sum of Rs. 300,000 having been voted in the Supply Bill for the year and being found to be available at the close of the year, it was on 31st December 1878 brought to account as expenditure for the year, and has thereby, in common with the other annual contributions to the Railway Construction Fund, become available for works of railway construction. In 1877 the contribution was Rs. 400,000 and the balance of Rs. 29,000 was the cost of the wharf branch line which was constructed in that year and paid for from a special vote in the Supplementary Supply Bill.

The increase of Rs. 46,970 35 under the head electric telegraph represents the cost of an extension to Nawalapitiya, and the payment of an outstanding claim of the Indian Government on account of telegraph stores supplied in 1858.

Assets and Liabilities.

4. The assets of the Ceylon Government amounted on December 31, 1878, to Rs. 6,977,264 86¾ or 654,118*l.* 11*s.* 7½*d.*, and the liabilities to Rs. 5,026,017 53½ or 471,189*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, the excess of the former over the latter being therefore Rs. 1,951,247 53¼ or 182,929*l.* 9*s.* 1½*d.* The cash balance at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 1,631,493 76¾ or 152,952*l.* 10*s.* 9¾*d.*, and deducting from this the sum of Rs. 500,000 required under the instructions of the Secretary of State to be held in reserve, the net balance available for appropriation at the same date amounted to Rs. 1,131,493 76¾ or 106,077*l.* 10*s.* 9¾*d.*

5. The debt of the Colony on the same date was 622,644*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* of which 350,000*l.* is the balance of the 700,000*l.* raised under the Ordinances 19 of 1862 and 7 of 1864 for the construction of the railway from Colombo to Kandy. For the repayment of this railway debt the sum of 58,000 per annum is contributed from general revenue to a sinking fund which had to its credit at the close of the year the amount of 185,200*l.*, the remainder of the debt consists of a sum of 200,000*l.* borrowed for the construction of the breakwater under Ordinance 1 of 1876, and of a sum of 75,000*l.* less 2,355*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* repaid, received from the Public Works Commissioners under Ordinance 6 of 1875 for the same purpose. The railway loan bears interest at the rate of 6 per cent., and the breakwater loans at the rate of 4½ and 3½ per cent., respectively, and provision is made for paying off the principal and interest of the latter loans by periodical appropriations from general revenue

Imports and Exports.

6. Exclusive of specie in each case the imports of the year were valued at Rs. 47,094,818 70, and the exports at Rs. 46,159,522 17, a decrease on the corresponding figures for the previous year of Rs. 7,567,584 93 and Rs. 14,693,975 17 respectively. Adding the value of specie imported and exported, the imports amount to Rs. 53,129,783 45 and the exports to Rs. 47,340,132 17, giving a gross total of Rs. 100,469,915 62 as against Rs. 123,904,216 97 for the preceding year.

Imports.

7. Cotton goods were imported to the value of Rs. 4,045,648, the duty collected on the quantity thereof cleared from the customs being Rs. 191,488 or Rs. 67,775 less than the collection in 1877.

Grain.—There was a general decline in all descriptions of grain, the value of the importations being Rs. 1,244,316 below the value in 1877, and the falling off in the duty Rs. 17,296.

In live stock there was a decrease of Rs. 608,455, and in manure an increase in weight of 16,398 tons, but a decrease in value of Rs. 1,250,160.

CEYLON.

In metals and metal ware the decrease was Rs. 655,371, and in specie Rs. 2,086,308.

Malt liquors, wines, tobacco, spirits, candles, coal, and cement all exhibit slight decreases, but an increase is shown on Poonac of Rs. 80,832, and on food articles of Rs. 81,477.

Exports.

8. There is a slight increase generally in the exportation of nearly all the articles of Island produce with the important exception of coffee which shows a decrease of 342,273 cwts. in weight, and Rs. 15,807,734 in value. The great falling off in coffee crop is generally attributed to the ravages of leaf disease, and a vigorous effort was initiated towards the close of the year 1878 to discover by study and experiment, under the scientific direction of the late Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, a means of eradicating this most formidable enemy to the coffee cultivation. The record of the partial success already achieved in this work belongs to the present year 1879.

Shipping.

9. As compared with 1877 there is a decrease of 1,247 tons inwards, and an increase of 58,605 tons outwards.

Public Works.

10. The expenditure of the Public Works Department was Rs. 5,553,639 00¾ being Rs. 495,627 57¼ or a little less than 10 per cent. over that of 1877. The cost of the establishment, including, in addition to salaries fixed and provisional, all salaries on account of allowances, transport, and office contingencies, was Rs. 408,891 02 or about 7⅓ per cent. on the expenditure upon works. The subjoined tables exhibit (1) a classification of the expenditure under the headings of establishment, construction, upkeep, repair, and improvement of roads, bridges, and buildings, and irrigation works; (2) the funds from which the expenditure has been met; (3) the expenditure incurred in the several Provinces, and (4) an abstract of the expenditure on the various classes of public works in each of the Provinces of the Island. The expenditure on irrigation works was Rs. 327,772 73¼, being Rs. 113,485 25¾ in excess of the expenditure in 1877, and it includes a sum of Rs. 33,167 26 spent on the commencement of the very important work of the restoration of the Yodi Ela in the North Central Province.

(1.)

——	1878.	1877.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Establishment, including transport, rent, and contingencies - -	408,890 92	405,591 21	3,299 71	—
Upkeep of roads, bridges, canals, and irrigation works - - -	1,886,370 39	1,721,498 02¼	164,872 36¾	—
Repairs of buildings -	110,348 03¾	111,863 76	—	1,515 72¼
Departmental charges and miscellaneous - -	393,128 16½	249,899 37¾	143,228 78¾	—
New works and buildings -	383,334 44¼	382,737 94½	596 49¾	—
Alterations and additions to buildings - - -	175,938 40¾	197,121 34½	—	21,182 93¾
New roads and additions to roads - - -	1,546,359 44¾	1,307,466 99½	238,892 45¼	—
New bridges - -	260,152 32	439,421 82	—	179,269 50
Inland navigation - -	61,344 04½	28,123 48½	33,220 56	—
Irrigation works - -	327,772 73¼	214,287 47½	113,485 25¾	—
Total - -	5,553,638 90¾	5,058,011 43½	697,595 63¼	201,968 16

(2.)

	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Supply Bill, 1878 - -	3,717,521 00¾	3,302,387 84¼	415,133 16½	—
Supplementary Supply Bill, 1878 - - -	274,205 61	487,889 84¼	—	213,684 23¼
Second do. do. -	203 11	3,632 89	—	3,429 78
Unexpended balances of previous years - -	1,092,546 52	814,892 99	277,653 53	—
Road Ordinance funds -	247,691 04½	253,486 66½	—	5,795 62
Private contribution -	211,182 92½	175,816 61	35,366 31½	—
Loan board funds - -	2,966 51	14,372 79½	—	11,406 28½
From votes from other departments - -	7,322 18	5,531 80	1,790 38	—
Total - -	5,553,638 90¾	5,058,011 43½	729,943 39	234,315 91¾

(3.)

	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Western Province - -	1,345,468 15¾	1,286,048 10¾	59,420 05	—
North-western Province -	482,347 05¼	384,722 77½	97,624 27¾	—
Southern Province - -	454,085 02½	495,783 16	—	41,698 13½
Eastern Province - -	445,172 20¼	311,435 61¼	133,736 59	—
Northern Province - -	482,429 93	580,143 38½	—	97,713 45½
North Central Province -	420,058 20¼	397,746 95	22,311 25¼	—
Central Province - -	1,924,078 33¾	1,602,131 44½	321,946 89¼	—
Total - -	5,553,638 90¾	5,058,011 43½	635,039 06¼	139,411 59

(4.)

—	Western Province.	North-western Province.	Southern Province.	Eastern Province.	Northern Province.	North Central Province.	Central Province.	Total.
Works and Buildings.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
New works and buildings	52,244 17¾	27,141 70	35,644 77	13,827 95½	32,672 95	*4,588* 41½ 21,218 74¼	197,475 50¼	*4,588* 41½ 380,225 79¾
Alterations and additions to buildings	81,771 15½	14,326 63	9,317 48¼	4,398 14	*1,999* 99 17,190 55½	14,831 91½	23,036 66	*1,999* 99 164,872 53¾
Repairs to buildings	46,508 10	7,944 68¾	14,970 68½	3,384 35½	9,630 3	7,128 78	28,728 24	118,294 87¾
Roads, Streets, Bridges, and Canals.				*3,550* 75			*92,181* 04½	*95,731* 79½
New roads	109,938 11¼	2,504 21	100,129 65	12,996 30	147,101 98	- - -	546,803 83¾	919,474 9
Additions and improvements to roads	145,698 63¼	113,161 34	1,468 72	*2,940* 63 114,135 58	42,618 81¼	*1,763* 49 119,725 69¼	*4,463* 54 59,779 85¾	*9,167* 66 596,588 63½
Upkeep of roads	*80,962* 11 336 710 34¼	*37.039* 61 102,765 67¾	*30,557* 81 128,612 4½	*6,848* 82 159,245 24	*29,743* 12 89,925 7½	*7,125* 31 33,442 87	*155,109* 33 613,992 29½	*347,386* 11 1,464,693 54½
New bridges	83,832 93¼	29,023 43	12,059 60	10,063 37¾	62,938 71¾	39,125 6¼	23,274 96¾	260,318 8¾
Repair of bridges	12,462 30¼	4,415 79½	12,266 71	4,679 66	1,974 61	- - -	1,683 98¼	37,482 6
Inland navigation	33,958 0	26,325 96½	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	60,284 4½
Irrigation Works.								
New works	26,960 22½	59,810 48½	33,454 64¾	65,708 22	- - -	125,287 11½	15,098 36	326,319 5¼
Upkeep works	1,080 24	2,635 54	14,134 82	12,675 92½	- - -	1,889 13	879 88	33,295 53½
Departmental Charges.								
Ferry boats	2,262 80¼	- - -	- - -	1,434 52	- - -	- - -	- - -	3,697 32¼
General Service	12,391 67¼	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1,959 33	14,351 0¼
Miscellaneous	179,163 52¼	31,011 26¼	27,885 43½	600 0	13,882 62	751 36	52,683 23	305,977 43
	80,962 11	*37,039* 61	*30,557* 81	*13,470* 20	*31,743* 11	*13,477* 21½	*251,753* 91½	*458,873* 97
	1,124,982 29¾	421,066 72¼	389,943 56½	403,149 27¼	417,935 35	363,400 66¼	1,565,396 14¼	4,685,874 1¾
Establishment	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	408,891 2
Total Rs.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	*458,873* 97 5,094,765 3¾

The figures in *Italic* denote expenditure under the Road Ordinance Funds and Private Contribution.

11. For further details I would refer you to the report of the Director of Public Works, which will be found in the Blue Book.

12. The Director of Public Works reports that the Pavilion at Kandy is in good order, and that the Queen's House at Colombo and the cottage at Nuwara Elliya require repair. The furniture and equipment at the Pavilion and at Queen's House are in fair order. The furniture at the cottage is not provided at the public expense.

Breakwater.

13. The expenditure on the breakwater, which is not included under the head public works, amounted in 1878 to Rs. 560,945 05, bringing the total expenditure from the commencement of the work to Rs. 3,188,552 05. The work was advanced by an additional length of sea wall of 326 feet, and by an additional length of harbour wall of 343½ feet.

Survey Department.

14. The Surveyor-General reports that 2,497 lots, aggregating 28,253 acres were sold during the year for Rs. 1,267,352. The difference between this sum and that appearing under the head land sales in the revenue section is accounted for by the fact that the Surveyor-General takes credit for the price of the lands sold during the year, while the Auditor-General's statement is a

return of the sums actually brought to account within the year. A month's grace is allowed to purchasers of Crown land to complete the payment of their purchase money, and the proceeds of lands sold in December are brought to account, as a rule, in the following January. Certificates were given for 1,047 lots, and the total number of lots, including settlement of Temple claims, was 3,544, comprising an extent of 30,975 acres. The survey fees and the fees recovered for tracing copies of title plans and maps prepared in the office amounted to Rs. 67,115 94. The gross expenditure of the department was Rs. 370,384, and the cost of the ordinary work of surveying lands for sale, settlement, exclusive of Chena, irrigation, and railway surveys, and other work which was not directly reproductive, was Rs. 295,201, or about 23 per cent. on the revenue earned. In the following tables will be found the details of the lots alienated in the different Provinces, an abstract of the lands sold to Europeans and to natives, and a return of all lands disposed of during the year.

ABSTRACT showing the Number of LOTS, ACREAGE, PURCHASE AMOUNT, and FEES of LANDS sold or otherwise alienated from the Crown in the respective PROVINCES during the Year 1878.

Provinces.	Lots sold by Auction or granted on Valuation of Improvements.					Lots settled on Certificates, Free Grants, &c.			Total Receipts for each Province.
	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.	Average Rate per Acre.	Fees.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	
		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Central - -	277	10,893 1 7	866,353 93	79 53	18,224 70	121	178 0 20	615 0	885,193 63
Western -	1,286	11,352 0 9	298,984 60	25 89	24,056 85	816	1,394 2 30	4,528 45	*322,560 90
Eastern - -	206	864 2 39	13,800 85	15 95	2,382 60	42	179 0 27	443 50	16,626 95
Southern -	472	1,979 3 12	30,041 65	15 17	4,882 40	31	86 2 34	252 50	35,176 55
Northern -	8	30 3 1	678 0	22 04	83 0	—	—	—	761 0
North-western	160	2,733 2 24	57,750 50	21 13	5,496 30	29	73 0 22	220 0	63,466 80
North Central	88	398 2 23	4,743 0	11 89	1,078 50	2	3 1 19	10 0	5,831 50
Temple lands showing fees due on title plans issued	—	—	—	—	—	6	807 2 7	495 25	—
Fees actually recovered on account of Temple land title plans -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,159 0
Fees for tracings, &c. -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,846 89	4,346 89
	2,497	28,252 3 35	1,267,352 53	44 85	56,204 35	1,047	2,722 2 39	10,911 59	1,335,132 22

ABSTRACT of LANDS sold and granted and otherwise disposed of to EUROPEANS and NATIVES in 1878.

Provinces.	Europeans.			Natives.		
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount and Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount and Fees.
		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.		A. R. P.	Rs. cts.
Central - - -	145	9,712 1 17·50	825,826 28	253	1,359 0 9·50	59,367 35
Western - -	112	5,617 2 10	152,972 11	1,990	7,129 0 29	169,597 79*
Eastern - - -	—	—	—	248	1,043 3 27	16,626 95
Southern - - -	16	516 3 2	7,142 60	487	1,549 3 4	28,033 95
Northern - -	—	—	—	8	30 3 1	761 0
North-western - -	14	423 1 34	13,998 20	175	2,383 1 12	49,468 60
North Central - -	1	4 1 0	232 50	89	397 3 2	5,599 0
Total - -	228	16,274 1 23·50	1,000,171 69	3,250	13,893 3 4·50	329,454 64

* Including Chenas.

RETURN of LANDS sold or otherwise disposed of during the Year 1878.

Provinces.	Crown Lands sold.				Encroachments sold or given at a Valuation.				Granted at Half Value.				Old Grants or Grants made in terms of the Minute of 8th Aug. 1844.			Free Grants or Settlements for Certificates against the Crown.			Total Results of Sales, &c. of each Province during the year 1878.				
	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Fees.	Lots.	Extent.	Amount.	Fees.	Amount including Fees.
		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.	Rs.		Acrs.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Central - -	245	10,791	859,697	17,918	9	25	2,033	78	23	78	4,624	228	—	—	—	121	178	615	398	11,072	866,354	18,839	885,193
Western - -	1,125	11,016	284,531	23,011	—	—	—	—	161	337	9,455	1,045	1	2	—	815	1,392	4,528	2,102	12,747	293,956	28,584	322,570
Eastern - -	114	726	11,457	1,891	60	73	1,847	278	32	66	497	213	—	—	—	42	179	444	248	1,044	13,801	2,826	16,627
Southern - -	204	1,477	22,484	3,300	252	489	7,147	1,530	16	14	410	53	—	—	—	31	87	252	503	2,067	30,041	5,135	35,176
Northern - -	8	31	678	83	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	31	678	83	761
North-western -	138	2,523	54,749	5,042	4	180	2,262	359	18	30	740	95	—	—	—	29	73	220	189	2,806	57,751	5,716	63,467
North Central -	87	396	4,668	1,071	—	—	—	—	1	2	75	7·50	—	—	—	2	3	10	90	401	4,743	1,088	5,831
Fees actually recovered on Temple land title plans of 1878 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,159	1,159
Fees for tracings, &c. - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,347	4,347
Total - -	1,921	26,960	1,238,264	52,316	325	767	13,289	2,245	251	527	15,801	1,641·50	1	2	—	1,040	1,912	6,069	3,538	30,168	1,267,354	67,777	1,335,131

Railways.

15. The work of constructing the sea-coast line to Kalutara was steadily carried on in 1878, and the expenditure was Rs. 448,218.

In the early part of 1878 the Matale extension was let to a contractor, Mr. Reid, and at his request I cut the first sod of the new railway at Kandy on the 28th of June 1878, being the anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation. The work has been vigorously pushed forward by the contractor.

The length of line open for public traffic, exclusive of the 3½ miles of line for the carriage of materials for the Colombo Harbour Works, was 108½ miles, the additional mile over the length open in 1877 being made up of a short branch line to the wharf and the crossing of the Panadure river on the coast railway. The earnings are returned at Rs. 3,450,464 as against Rs. 3,641,940 in 1877, in which was improperly included a sum of Rs. 25,346 on account of interest. The working expenses amounted to Rs. 1,354,021, bearing a profit of Rs. 2,096,444, or about 9·1 per cent. on the total capital expenditure. The main line from Colombo to Kandy shows a profit of 10·66 per cent., and the branch line from Peradeniya to Nawalapitiya and Colombo to Panadure profits of 6·35 per cent. and 4·8 per cent. respectively. For further details I would refer you to the reports of the traffic manager and the railway engineer.

Legislation.

16. The following Ordinances were passed during the year :—

No. 1. To declare the powers of assessors appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1866.

No. 2. To amend and consolidate the Law relating to the post office and the rates of postage.

No. 3. For the safe keeping of petroleum and other substances of a like nature.

No. 4. To amend the Law relating to the possession and sale of opium and bhang.

No. 5. To establish further tolls and to discontinue certain tolls.

No. 6. To amend the Law relating to the felling, destruction, and removal of timber grown on Crown lands.

No. 7. To repeal the Proclamation of the 5th August 1819, relating to the forcible possession of land and moveable property.

No. 8. For making final provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1877.

No. 9. For the raising by debentures of a sum of 1,000,000*l.* sterling for the construction of a railway from Nawalapitiya to Nanuoya.

No. 10. To make provision for the traffic rates to be charged in respect of goods upon the proposed line of railway between Nawalapitiya and Nanuoya.

No. 11. To make better provision for the due collection of the tax, duty, or share due to Government upon grain grown in the Island.

CEYLON.

No. 12. To declare the legality of certain payments made by the Municipal Council of Colombo out of the rates levied under the 53rd section of "The Municipal Councils Ordinance, 1865," and to make further provision for the application of such rates.

No. 13. To provide for the naturalization of Constantin Edmund de Komierowski.

No. 14. To amend "The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1876."

No. 15. For making provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1878.

No. 16. For making provision for the contingent services for the year 1879.

The principal Law passed during 1878, the Law which will more directly affect the interests of the population of Ceylon than almost any Law passed for nearly half a century, is the law to make better provision for the collection of the tax upon grain grown in the Island. This law carefully considered and elaborated by Commissioners and committees and Councils is now being brought into operation. It will, in fact, though not in name, convert a tax under which every improvement made by the cultivator only added to his burden into a quasi land tax, in which every improvement made by the cultivator must diminish his burden. By this law encouragement is held out to improvement, and it is not too sanguine to hope that the great native land holders first and after them the smaller proprietors will find out the benefit of the law. The Ordinance was in charge of the late learned Queen's Advocate and now Chief Justice of the Island, Mr. Cayley, whose name will, when its benefits are appreciated, be gratefully associated with it.

Public Health.

17. The state of the public health contrasts favourably with that of the three previous years with the exception of a severe visitation of small-pox, which prevailed more or less extensively throughout the Island. The epidemic of cholera, which commenced in the early part of 1875, ended about the middle of the year, and the country was free from any serious outbreak of malarial fevers or dysentery. The subjoined table exhibits in detail the results of the year. The continued high rate of mortality amongst the Malabar immigrants from India as compared with the rate amongst the indigenous inhabitants is a striking and distressing feature in the returns. On this subject I have already specially reported in my Despatches No. 314, dated 13th August, and No. 356, dated 10th September last. The terrible rate of mortality disclosed in the following tables was the inevitable result of long continued privations and sufferings endured in India during the late famine, and though the care and attention bestowed upon the Coolies after their arrival in Ceylon and their reception into our hospitals saved many lives, there were many whose powers of vitality were too deeply undermined to be able to recover.

RETURN separating the CASES treated in 20 CIVIL HOSPITALS and the TWO ASYLUMS into MIXED RACES and MALABARS.

Name of Hospital.	Average daily Number of Sick.		Remained.		Admitted into Hospital during the Year.		Total Number of Cases treated.		Died.		Discharged.		Remaining under treatment on Dec. 31, 1878.		Per-centage of Deaths to Total No. of Cases treated.	Per-centage of Deaths to Cases treated amongst		Principal Causes of Death.						
	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Mixed Races.	Malabars.		Mixed Races.	Malabars.	Cholera.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Anasarca or General Dropsy.	Privation.	General Debility.	Fevers.	Other Diseases.
General Hospital, Colombo - -	74·91	105·10	66	98	2,079	1,653	2,145	1,751	237	553	1,847	1,120	61	78	20·27	11·04	31·58	—	382	80	85	20	76	21	126
Civil Hospital, Panadure - -	17·85	6·36	3	6	315	125	318	131	38	21	278	109	2	1	13·14	11·94	16·03	1	23	5	16	—	2	1	11
„ „ Kalutara - -	13·	5·	—	—	88	38	88	38	11	2	62	28	15	8	10·31	12·5	5·26	—	4	2	2	—	—	—	5
„ „ Kegalla - -	14·69	20·02	10	15	305	426	315	441	27	41	278	378	10	22	8·99	8·57	9·29	1	18	26	3	—	1	—	19
„ „ Ratnapura - -	14·82	26·33	11	33	274	557	285	590	53	182	213	366	19	42	26·85	18·59	30·84	—	108	51	5	—	32	1	38
„ „ Negombo - -	38·07	48·85	48	44	661	630	709	674	46	69	623	571	40	34	8·31	6·48	10·23	—	17	39	7	1	1	9	41
„ „ Kurnegala - -	48·80	37·09	62	28	982	680	1,044	708	47	80	933	591	64	37	7·24	4·50	11·03	—	54	27	3	—	1	5	37
„ „ Puttalam - -	8·35	20·81	7	21	168	388	175	409	12	66	158	325	5	18	13·35	6·85	16·13	—	22	12	12	—	3	9	20
„ „ Chilaw - -	24·63	6·99	23	7	305	190	328	197	13	17	312	177	3	3	5·71	3·96	8·62	—	13	2	7	1	—	1	6
„ „ Galle - - -	76·20	10·23	62	16	1,813	242	1,875	258	148	30	1,637	221	90	7	8·34	7·89	11·62	—	89	14	9	—	23	2	41
„ „ Matara - -	24·39	17·76	23	8	430	388	453	396	44	37	383	352	26	7	9·54	9·71	9·34	—	18	8	13	—	—	9	33
„ „ Hambantola - -	3·50	6·58	3	10	78	131	81	141	4	11	71	126	6	4	6·75	4·93	7·80	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	8
„ „ Tangalla - -	8·43	·39	12	—	97	9	109	9	3	—	97	8	9	1	2·54	2·75	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
„ „ Trincomalie - -	3·32	22·86	1	28	105	553	106	581	9	52	94	509	2	20	8·87	8·49	8·95	—	22	10	8	1	1	2	17
„ „ Batticoloa - -	16·50	15·16	15	13	267	238	282	251	15	24	250	209	17	18	7·31	5·31	9·56	—	16	8	8	—	—	—	7
„ „ Mullaittivu - -	44·45	1·78	55	—	416	18	471	18	13	2	403	14	55	2	3·06	2·76	11·1	—	7	4	—	—	—	1	3
„ „ Vavuniya Vilankulam	25·05	6·60	16	2	439	120	455	122	33	12	402	100	20	10	7·79	7·03	9·83	—	4	13	2	—	—	7	19
„ „ Kandy - -	43·48	150·92	61	178	1,197	2,603	1,258	2,781	120	1,036	1,093	1,579	45	166	28·62	9·53	37·25	—	838	62	—	—	179	6	71
„ „ Gampola - -	16·34	60·15	11	37	448	1,347	459	1,384	77	594	368	722	14	68	36·40	16·77	42·91	11	502	9	1	—	84	2	62
„ „ Badulla - -	16·47	25·39	9	26	550	602	559	628	37	179	509	426	13	23	18·19	6·61	28·50	1	121	46	12	—	14	4	18
„ „ Matale - -	9·42	40·82	7	46	371	1,208	378	1,254	73	472	296	748	9	34	33·39	19·31	37·63	35	239	82	—	—	132	4	53
„ „ Nuwara Eliya -	5·32	25·65	5	17	125	370	130	387	13	124	115	240	2	23	26·49	10·	32·04	—	2	44	4	—	69	3	15
Total - - -	547·99	661·14	510	633	11,513	12,516	12,023	13,149	1,073	3,604	10,423	8,919	527	626	18·58	8·92	27·40	49	2,505	544	198	24	618	87	652
Lunatic Asylum, Colombo - -	27	33	206	67	66	24	272	91	41	17	50	20	180	55	15·97	10·07	18·68	15	12	3	3	—	6	—	19
Leper Hospital, Hendella - -	84·78	23·22	79	22	89	19	168	41	21	9	54	11	95	23	14·35	12·35	23·07	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	29

CEYLON.

Education.

18. The amount expended on education in 1878 was Rs. 409,056, or Rs. 11,938 in excess of the expenditure for 1877. The increase is entirely due to the extension of the grant-in-aid system, there being a decrease under all the other principal heads. The number of Government schools open during the year was 356, with 17,896 pupils, and an average attendance of 11,869, as against 329 schools in 1877 with 15,677 pupils, and an average attendance of 10,588. 70 new grant-in-aid schools were registered during the year, and the number presented for examination was 772, with an attendance of 49,854 pupils, being an increase of 42 schools and 2,712 pupils on the previous year. In the following tables are shown (1) the classification of the Government schools with the number of pupils and the average attendance, (2) the classification of the grant-in-aid schools, (3) the number of schools and pupils, the population and the proportion under instruction in each of the several Provinces, (4) the cost to Government of educating each pupil in the different classes of Government schools after deducting the amounts received in the shape of fees, (5) the amounts earned by the different classes of grant-in-aid schools, and (6) the nominal and average attendance in the schools of the different missions, and the amounts of the grants received by each.

(1.)

Class of Schools.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children.	Average daily Attendance.
Boys' English schools - - -	14	1,131	930
Boys' Anglo-vernacular schools -	29	1,418	1,083
Boys' Vernacular schools - -	255	12,899	8,316
Girls' English schools - - -	6	364	244
Girls' Anglo-vernacular schools -	5	129	82
Girls' Vernacular schools - -	74	1,955	1,209

(2.)

	English.	Anglo-vernacular.	Vernacular.	Total.
Number of high schools in 1878 -	23	0	0	23
„ in list - - -	3,169	0	0	3,169
„ receiving superior instruction - -	991	0	0	991
„ of middle schools -	32	29	128	189
„ on list - - -	2,507	2,049	10,461	15,017
„ examined in high and middle schools -	3,158	1,136	4,956	9,250
„ presented for capitation -	293	97	1,429	1,819
„ of primary schools -	12	46	482	540
„ examined in primary schools - -	324	758	11,223	12,305
„ on list - - -	459	1,954	28,610	31,023
„ presented for capitation -	72	273	4,813	5,158

(3.)

Class of Schools.	Western Province.		North-western Province.		Southern Province.		Eastern Province.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Superior - -	10	1,620	—	—	4	515	5	382
Middle - -	128	9,001	9	768	28	1,799	15	967
Primary - -	380	21,144	47	2,889	70	2,977	57	3,263
C. schools - -	4	111	1	27	4	102	1	44
Total - -	522	31,876	57	3,684	106	5,393	78	4,656
Population - -	766,285		276,776		399,755		113,290	
Proportion under instruction - -	1 in 24		1 in 75		1 in 74		1 in 24	

(*continued.*)

Class of Schools.	Northern Province.		Central Province.		North Central Province.		Total.	
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Superior - -	5	808	2	146	—	—	26	3,471
Middle -	99	7,937	21	1,261	—	—	300	21,733
Primary - -	161	8,846	60	2,616	7	166	782	41,901
C. schools - -	4	149	5	191	1	21	20	645
Total - -	269	17,740	88	4,214	8	187	1,128	67,750
Population - -	281,788		495,340		63,038		2,406,262	
Proportion under instruction - -	1 in 15		1 in 117		1 in 337		1 in 35	

(4.)

	Cost per head to Government. Rs.	cts.
Boys' English schools - - -	52	12
Boys' Anglo-vernacular schools - -	14	77
Boys' Vernacular schools - -	6	43
Girls' English schools - - -	47	13
Girls' Anglo-vernacular schools - -	27	54
Girls' Vernacular schools - -	5	58

CEYLON.

(5.)

Mission.	English.	Anglo-vernacular.	Vernacular.	C.	Total.	Amount of Grants. Rs. cts.
American - -	3	12	115	4	134	24,776 73
Baptist - -	1	7	19	0	27	4,053 65
Church of England (C.M.S) -	7	30	112	9	158	19,005 89
Church of England (S.P.G.) -	14	7	49	1	71	14,214 57
Presbyterian -	0	0	2	0	2	250 5
Private - -	3	2	16	1	22	6,013 16
Roman Catholic -	25	2	162	0	189	47,105 1
Wesleyan - -	14	15	135	5	169	28,271 51
	67	75	610	20	772	143,680 57

(6.)

Mission.	Number of Schools.	Nominal Attendance.	Average.
American - - - -	134	7,981	5,544
Baptist - - - -	27	1,434	892
Church of England (C.M.S.) - -	158	8,010	4,615
Church of England (S.P.G.) - -	71	4,219	2,983
Presbyterian - - - -	2	82	48
Private - - - -	22	2,084	1,394
Roman Catholics - - -	189	15,420	10,321
Wesleyan - - - -	169	10,624	6,405
	772	49,854	32,20 2

19. The criminal statistics of 1878 do not compare unfavourably with the statistics of previous years, but towards the close of the past year and throughout the present year there has been a gradual and deplorable increase of crime and lawlessness which calls for vigorous repression. My remarks on this subject must be reserved for a report enclosing the statistics for 1879, but I could not forward the enclosed returns without an allusion to the great increase of crime in the present year, as, otherwise, an inference might justly be drawn from the tables that crime was decreasing.

20. Prefixed to the Blue Book will be found a table giving a statistical view of the progress of the Colony for the years 1821 to 1878 inclusive, and an abstract of the principal statistical results for the years 1877 and 1878.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, M.P., Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

No. 16.

Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Mauritius,
September 15, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1878.

2. As I did not assume the Government of this Colony until the 4th April 1879, it would be contrary to custom if I were to comment on a period antecedent to my arrival. But I have much pleasure in forwarding for publication with the annual parliamentary papers, showing the condition of the Colonies, the accompanying full and clear report, which has been prepared by the Hon. H. N. D. Beyts, the Receiver-General and now the Acting Colonial Secretary.

3. The report on the Blue Book of the Seychelles by the Chief Civil Commissioner of that Dependency, and a report from the Police Magistrate of Rodrigues are also forwarded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. BOWEN.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK for 1878.

I.—*Taxation.*

The alterations made in taxes, duties, and fees during 1878 were as follows:—

(*a.*) By Ordinance No. 6 of 1878 all existing laws relative to duties leviable on licenses, and to direct taxes on vehicles, horses, mules, and dogs were consolidated, and schedules established determining those duties and taxes.

(*b.*) Ordinance No. 7 of 1878 determined in rupee currency the sums leviable as customs duties and quay dues on goods, wares, and merchandize measured and weighed according to the metric system.

(*c.*) Ordinance No. 12 of 1878 laid down a new tariff of fees to be charged in matters connected with labour and immigration.

(*d.*) Government Notices Nos. 47 and 48 of 1878 determined the fees chargeable on stamps or marks to be affixed on weights and measures under Ordnances Nos. 2 and 3 of 1876.

(*e.*) Government Notice No. 56 of 1878 proclaimed regulations under Ordinance No. 12 of 1876 fixing a tariff of fees to be received by appraisers appointed to value immovable estates falling under the administration of the Curator of Vacant Estates.

MAURITIUS.

(*f.*) Under Government Notice No. 99 of 1878 regulations were promulgated reducing the charges on inland telegraphic messages.

(*g.*) Under Government Notice No. 168 of 1878 market regulations were published establishing the rates payable for the monthly hire of stalls in the district markets.

(*h.*) Government Notice No. 176 of 1878 proclaimed—

1. The rates of postage leviable in Mauritius and its Dependencies upon correspondence addressed to countries which form part of the postal union, and despatched by mail packet or private ship.

2. The rates of postage chargeable on letters, &c. forwarded from Mauritius or any of its Dependencies viâ the United Kingdom to countries which have not joined the postal union.

3. Rates of postage chargeable on paid correspondence forwarded from and unpaid correspondence received at Mauritius or any of its Dependencies viâ France, or post office agent on board of any French mail packet.

4. Rates of postage chargeable on letters, &c. forwarded from Mauritius or any of its Dependencies to Australia, New Zealand, and the South African Colonies viâ Aden.

II.—*Receipts and Expenditure.*

Receipts.

The following table shows the receipts of the last two years omitting fractions. The receipts on account of the Seychelles Islands are not included :—

Heads of Receipts.	Average for Ten Years ending 31st December 1876.	1877.	1878.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs - - -	2,234,651	2,597,616	2,708,214
2. Harbour dues - - -	223,134	262,995	259,609
3. Land sales - - -	33,651	4,821	13,654
4. Land revenue - - -	35,994	43,733	38,196
5. Rents, exclusive of land -	2,242	6,869	5,632
6. Transfer, registration, and mortgage dues - -	235,052	215,910	229,183
7. Licenses and permits - -	1,702,253	1,826,880	1,970,221
8. Stamps - - -	102,720	107,597	107,896
9. Taxes - - - -	129,945	146,736	145,996
10. Postage - - -	49,991	60,190	61,804
11. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court - - -	133,958	111,559	98,487
12. Fees of office - -	65,497	54,183	57,583
13. Forests (began only in 1876) -	3,315	16,891	6,277
14. Sale of Government property -	20,940	47,453	40,110
15. Reimbursements - -	203,697	237,857	240,092
16. Miscellaneous receipts -	261,059	146,285	159,361
17. Interest - - -	196,752	143,167	201,737
18. Special receipts - -	2,902	7,260	3,411
19. Board of Health - -	247,955	26,770	24,023
20. Railway traffic - -	1,064,196	1,408,697	1,517,461
21. Rodrigues - - -	8,391	7,127	6,590
Total -	6,958,295	7,480,596	7,895,537

The rate of revenue per head of population in 1878 was Rs. 22 23, against Rs. 21 43 in 1877.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the last two years is shown in the following table :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Average of Ten Years ending 31st December 1876.	1877.	1878.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Establishments, fixed and temporary, with allowances and contingencies	2,297,108	2,197,855	2,241,089
2. Pensions	141,924	148,458	173,178
3. Harbour, coast services, &c.	91,119	79,279	58,686
4. Revenue services		10,519	20,456
5. Administration of justice	81,233	85,903	71,710
6. Ecclesiastical	26,997	28,750	29,593
7. Charitable allowances	1,431	1,713	1,793
8. Education	57,011	77,535	89,631
9. Hospitals	90,411	44,382	34,605
10. Police	68,747	61,231	58,583
11. Gaols		5,021	7,593
12. Rent	57,528	61,186	60,366
13. Transport	32,583	73,269	73,529
14. Mails	104,630	53,727	53,065
15. Works and buildings	143,466	294,189	447,604
16. Roads and bridges	139,357	173,752	215,084
17. Forests	-	3,490	5,501
18. Miscellaneous services	249,593	291,086	267,807
19. Interest and exchange	170,342	307,797	398,270
20. Civil stores	273,768	314,722	331,858
21. Military contribution	281,513	138,000	150,000
22. Quays, &c.	122,646		
23. Immigration	108,430	41,916	68,277
24. Drawback and refund of duties	56,247	9,351	9,980
25. Quarantine	5,975	9,810	11,995
26. Debenture debt	896,091	986,065	981,398
27. Railway working department	876,722	831,856	1,005,563
28. General Board of Health (*c*)	315,431	365,778	184,659
29. Poor Law Department (*d*)	273,104	338,978	293,454
30. Rodrigues	-	466	459
Total	6,963,407	7,036,084	7,345,786

The rate of expenditure per head of population in 1878 was Rs. 20 71, against Rs. 20 17 in 1877.

III.—*Local Revenues.*

	Rs.
The actual revenue of the municipal corporation in 1878 amounted to	401,316
The actual expenditure to	371,213
The average revenue of the five preceding years to	393,710
The average expenditure of the same period to	388,848

The total debt of the corporation amounted to Rs. 1,344,769. Of this amount Rs. 1,299,000 is due on debentures redeemable as follows:—

	Rs.		Rs.
1881 - -	80,000	1887 - -	107,600
1884 - -	218,400	1888 - -	302,000
1885 - -	367,000	1889 - -	92,400
1886 - -	130,000		

Debenture of first issue, amount of which has not been claimed, Rs. 200.

The sinking fund accumulated for the redemption of the debentures of the corporation at the end of 1878 amounted to Rs. 184,200.

IV.—*Assets and Liabilities.*

(*a.*) *Commissioners of Currency.*

The currency notes in circulation at the end of 1878 amounted to the value of Rs. 3,324,875.

The assets of the Commissioners of Currency consisted of—

	Rs.
(1.) A reserve in specie amounting to -	1,780,625
(2.) Amounts invested in England - -	1,661,072

This shows a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to Rs. 116,822, which arises from the securities held by the Commissioners having risen in value since they were purchased.

(*b.*) *Savings Bank.*

The total amount due to depositors at the end of 1878 (including interest for the year) was Rs. 2,578,008.

The assets of the bank were as follows:—

	Rs.
(1.) Invested in mortgages on real property in the Colony - - - -	112,409
(2.) Invested in England - - -	823,675
(3.) In local chartered banks - - -	1,620,916
(4.) In hands of district cashiers - -	21,008
Total - - - -	2,578,008

(*c.*) *Curatelle.*

The liabilities of the Curatelle (including interest for 1878) amounted to Rs. 314,449.

The assets consisted of—

	Rs.
(1.) Amounts invested in mortgages on real property - - - - -	58,597
(2.) Cash balance in banks - - -	255,851
Total - - - -	314,449

(*d.*) *Treasury proper.*

At the end of 1877 the assets of the Treasury proper showed an excess over liabilities amounting to Rs. 781,449. This surplus had increased to Rs. 1,258,172 at the end of 1878.

V.—*Military Expenditure.*

The amount contributed towards military expenditure in 1878 was Rs. 150,000.*

The troops in the Colony on the 31st of December consisted of—

Staff (including officers, medical department, and Royal Engineers) - - - -	31
Artillery (officers, non-commissioned officers, and gunners) - - - - -	117
Infantry (officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates) - - - - -	329
Total - - - -	477

VI.—*Criminal Justice.*

The number of offences which came under the notice of the police and of the magistrates was smaller than in any of the three preceding years:—

1875 - - - -	44,244
1876 - - - -	35,003
1877 - - - -	32,371
1878 - - - -	28,860

The decrease is chiefly due to the abolition of certain penal enactments relative to immigrants' passes.

The total number of persons prosecuted likewise decreased:—

1875 - - - -	35,707
1876 - - - -	34,194
1877 - - - -	28,016
1878 - - - -	26,033

The differences between the numbers of offences known to have been committed and the numbers of persons prosecuted were as follows:—

Excess of number of offences over number of persons prosecuted:—

1875 - - - -	8,537
1876 - - - -	809
1877 - - - -	4,355
1878 - - - -	2,298

* This was only a payment on account; the annual expenditure amounts to about Rs. 220,000.

MAURITIUS.

The following table shows the number of persons brought before the several courts of the Colony during 1878, and the results:—

—	Prosecuted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.
Supreme court - - - -	57	7	50
District courts - - - -	18,960	7,062	11,898
Stipendiary courts - - -	7,016	2,294	4,722
Total - - -	26,033	9,363	16,670

The following table shows in broad classification the offences tried in the district courts in 1878, and the results:—

—	Assault and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences against Property.	Other Offences.
Convictions -	928	10	803	950	9,207
Acquittals - -	2,028	9	471	1,455	3,028
	2,956	29	1,274	2,405	12,235

The number of cases tried in the district courts was smaller than in 1877, and the number of convictions show a still greater decrease:—

—	Cases tried.	Convictions.
1877 - -	19,934	13,200
1878 - -	18,960	11,898
	974	1,302

The total number of capital offences tried was as follows:—

Cases of murder - - - - 8
Cases of attempt at murder - - 4

The number of persons sentenced to death was three; the number executed one.

The number against whom the extreme penalty of the law was carried out in 1877 was five.

VII.—*Government Reformatory.*

The number of boys in the reformatory on the 31st of December 1878 was 142; 16 more than on the last day of the previous year.

The daily average number of boys was 135 in 1877, and 140 in 1878.

Forty-eight boys were committed in 1878; 43 of these had never been convicted before; 4 had been convicted once before; and 1 twice before.

Twenty-five of the boys committed in 1878 were Indians, 23 Creoles.

The total number apprenticed since the opening of the reformatory was 327.

Sixteen boys escaped during the year, and 14 were re-captured.

The total gross expenditure of the establishment was Rs. 21,358, *i.e.*, Rs. 2,066 less than in 1877; and the total value of work done for sale was Rs. 4,688. The net expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,670; Rs. 979 less than in 1877.

Five deaths occurred amongst the boys in 1878.

The deaths of 1877 had amounted to the same number.

VIII.—*Education.*

The following table exhibits the number of pupils on the rolls in Government elementary schools, and the average attendance at each during the past three years:—

Government Schools.

Year.	Average Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage attending as compared with Numbers on Roll.
1876 - -	5,358	3,403	63
1877 - -	5,138	3,183	61
1878 - -	5,337	3,374	63

In 1878 there were on the rolls on the days of examination:—

Boys - - - -	}	4,934
Girls - - - -		

The number of pupils examined to be graded in the Government schools in the standards of reading, writing, and arithmetic was 2,791. The remainder of the pupils on the roll, were, for various causes, not examined.

2,220 passed in reading.
2,161 „ writing.
1,807 „ arithmetic.

The number of Indian pupils, or those of Indian descent, in Government schools were:—

Boys - - - -	1,606
Girls - - - -	190

Of the above, 427 were Mahomedans and 1,160 Hindus.

MAURITIUS.

The total expenditure on Government schools for 1878, including rent for houses and all other charges, except books, stationery, and general superintendence, was Rs. 125,650.

The total amount of fees received during 1878 was Rs. 6,036.

The average cost of each pupil, deducting the amount of fees received, according to the average number on roll (5,337) was Rs. 23 54, but according to the average attendance (3,374) it amounted to Rs. 37 24.

Grant-in-Aid Schools.

The number of schools receiving grants from Government during the year was :—

Roman Catholic - - -	39
Church of England - - -	17
Independent - - - -	2
Total - - -	58

The number of pupils on the rolls of these schools, and their average attendance during the last three years, are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Average Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance.
1876 - -	3,396	2,279	67
1877 - -	3,624	2,425	66
1878 - -	4,161	2,781	66

The total amount provided for this class of schools is Rs. 40,000.

Of this amount, Rs. 39,146 21 has been expended in grants to 58 schools. In these schools the average cost of each pupil according to the average number on rolls (4,161) was Rs. 9 40, but according to the average attendance (2,781) it was Rs. 15 07.

The grade tests have been applied during the year to 56 of the grant schools.

The number of pupils who were examined, to be graded in the three subjects of instruction was 2,280.

1,793 passed in reading.
1,758 ,, writing.
1,536 ,, arithmetic.

The number of Indian pupils, or those of Indian descent, attending grant-in-aid schools was :—

Boys - - - - -	948
Girls - - - - -	277
Total - - -	1,225

Of these, 164 were Mahomedans and 757 Hindus.

IX.—*Railways.*

The receipts and expenses for the two last years are given in the following table :—

—	1878.	1877.
	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts - - - - - -	1,538,769	1,461,810
Working and contingent expenses - -	1,005,562	831,855
Surplus of 1878 - -	173,707	—
Per-centage of expenditure to receipts -	65·35	56·90

There was an increase in the total receipts of Rs. 76,959, and an increase in the expenditure of Rs. 173,707, as compared with 1877.

The number of passengers in 1878 was 1,132,635, which shows an increase of 20,481 when compared with 1877.

In general goods traffic there was a decrease in general merchandise, and an increase in sugar, as is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Tons of general Goods.	Tons of Sugar.
1877 - -	130,201	82,644
1878 - -	129,685	89,725
Decrease, 1878	516	—
Increase, 1878	—	7,081

The Savanne Branch Line was wholly opened to traffic on the 1st January 1878.

The revenue and expenditure of the Savanne Branch are included in the above-mentioned figures.

Post Office.

The total revenue collected in the Post Office department, including the amount to be accounted for to the Imperial Post Office, amounted to Rs. 80,212 13.

In 1877 the total collections were Rs. 82,935 23, Rs. 2,723 10 more than in 1878. The decrease in 1878 is chiefly attributable to the lower rates charged under the Postal Union Tariff. The decrease includes a reduction in the commission levied on money orders.

MAURITIUS.

The numbers of letters and newspapers received and despatched by mail packets were larger in 1878 than in the previous year:—

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1877 - -	165,602	194,025
1878 - -	179,950	278,648
Increase -	14,348	84,623

The numbers of letters and newspapers received and despatched by private ships were as follows:—

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1877 - -	31,768	30,666
1878 - -	33,771	28,617
Increase -	2,003	—
Decrease -	—	2,049

An increase of business is shown in the return relative to the district post offices:—

RECEIVED.

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1877 - -	115,566	4,158
1878 - -	120,446	5,213
Increase -	4,880	1,072

DESPATCHED.

—	Letters.	Newspapers.
1877 - -	137,863	342,579
1878 - -	144,932	359,808
Increase -	7,069	17,229

The cost of the establishment of the Post Office, including allowances and contingencies, was Rs. 43,014 24, Rs. 2,191 less than in 1877.

The total expenditure of the Department (including the subsidy of Rs. 40,000 paid to the Messageries Maritimes, and Rs. 12,000 to the Railway Department for the conveyance of inland mails,)

	Rs.
Amounted to - - -	101,823
The total expenditure in 1878 was -	101,383
Decrease - -	439

XI.—*Telegraph.*

The total number of telegraphic messages—

In 1878 was - - -	91,364
In 1877 it was - - -	134,693

The decrease occurred in train signals and Government messages.

The charge for telegrams was reduced on the 1st of July 1878 from 50 cents to 25 cents of a rupee. The result was an increase of paid telegrams amounting to 3,439.

Owing to this increase of paid messages, while the revenue from messages did not decrease in 1878, the receipts for porterage largely increased. The receipts in cash, compared to those of the previous year, stand as follows :—

	1877.	1878.
	Rs.	Rs.
For messages - - -	4,448	4,453
„ porterage - - -	2,739	4,047

The estimated value of messages sent by Government (exclusive of train signals) was as follows :—

	Rs.
1877 - - - -	1,338
1878 - - - -	1,173
Decrease - -	165

XII.—*Public Works.*

The most important works executed during 1878 were the following :—

(1.) A new storey was constructed over part of the Colonial Secretary's office.

(2.) The crane on the Customs Wharf was raised 10 feet higher, to allow the landing of heavy machinery from ships moored alongside.

(3.) The quay wall at the west end of the harbour of Port Louis was partly rebuilt.

MAURITIUS.

(4.) Various buildings, forming part of the new lunatic asylum at Beau-Bassin, were begun and completed.

The total amount spent on this work up to the 31st December 1878 was Rs. 331,054. Its total cost is considered likely to amount to Rs. 426,000. It is expected that it will be completed and given over to the Medical Department on the 1st November 1879.

The expenditure on works and buildings and on roads and bridges in 1878 was as follows:—

	Rs.
Works and buildings - -	424,062
Roads and bridges - -	216,785
Total - - -	640,877

XIII.—*Savings Bank.*

The following statement shows the progress of the savings bank since 1838, the year which followed that in which it was opened:—

Years.	No. of open Accounts at end of the Year.	Amount due to Depositors.
	Rs.	Rs.
1838 - - - -	578	59,848
1848 - - - -	1,543	352,636
1858 - - - -	4,561	1,266,333
1868 - - - -	7,113	1,657,540
1878 - - - -	12,460	2,578,008

The total amount of deposits received in 1878 was Rs. 939,470, Rs. 97,701 more than the deposits of 1877.

The amount withdrawn was Rs. 913,829.

The amount deposited by Indians in 1878 was Rs. 471,309, and the amount withdrawn by them Rs. 464,374.

The total number of depositors, the total amount in deposit, and the average amount held by each depositor in 1877 and 1878 are shown by the following figures:—

Years.	Number of Depositors.	Amount in Deposit.	Average Amount held by each Depositor.
		Rs.	Rs.
1877 - -	11,741	2,456,938	209
1878 - -	12,460	2,578,008	206

The total amount held by Indians in the bank at the end of 1878 was Rs. 1,344,118, Rs. 57,350 more than at the end of 1877.

XIV.—*Population.*

The estimated population at the end of 1878 was as follows:—

Indian.		
Males - - -	151,040	
Females - - -	90,853	
		241,894
General.		
Males - - -	59,519	
Females - - -	52,210	
		112,729
Total.		
Males - - -	210,560	
Females - - -	144,063	
		354,623

The Indian population increased by 4,426 during the year 1878, and the general population by 1,572. The total increase was 5,998.

XV.—*Immigration.*

The number of Indian immigrants landed at the depôt in Port Louis during 1878 was:—

Men - - - - -	2,750
Women - - - - -	1,238
Boys - - - - -	316
Girls - - - - -	245
Total - -	4,826

These immigrants arrived in 12 vessels, of which five were from Calcutta and seven from Madras. Of these immigrants, 340 of both sexes had previousiy emigrated to this and other colonies. 174 males and 101 females had come to Mauritius before.

The rate of mortality at sea shows a decrease upon that of last year:—

——	1877.	1878.
Calcutta - - - -	10·6	7·9 per 1,000.
Madras - - - -	2·8	1·9 „

The number of Indians who left Mauritius during the year was:—

Males - - - -	1,825
Females - - - -	527
Total - -	2,352

This number comprised 212 males and 194 females who were born in the Colony.

MAURITIUS.

The departures were chiefly for India:—

Calcutta - - - -	1,435
Madras - - - -	435
Bombay - - - -	138
Natal - - - -	220
Australia - - - -	2

The amount of money declared by the above immigrants as being in their possession when they left was Rs. 297,562.

288 of the immigrants who left declared that they had no savings.

246 were sent to India at Government expense, and 2,106 paid their own passages.

The amount of money remitted to India by immigrants, through the Protector of Immigrants, was Rs. 3,945; Rs. 1,415 to Calcutta and Rs. 2,540 to Madras. These amounts are not included in the savings which the immigrants leaving the Colony carried away with them.

On the 31st December 1878 the Indian immigrant population of the Colony was:—

Males - - - -	98,110
Females - - - -	42,588
Total - -	140,698

These figures compared with those of 1877, show an increase of 307 females, and a decrease of 918 males.

The death-rate on sugar estates for 1878 compares favourably with those of the two previous years:—

	Rate per 1000.
1876 - -	29·9
1877 - - -	25·4
1878 - - - -	23·3

The number of suicides among the Indian population had gradually increased since 1876:—

1876 - - - -	36
1877 - - - -	41
1878 - - - -	49

Seventeen cases were accounted for as ascribable to ill-health, four to intoxication, four to domestic trouble, and two to fear of punishment for crimes committed. The causes of the others were not discovered.

The number of engagements entered into before the stipendiary magistrates in 1878 amounted to 62,535. Of these 40,335 were re-engagements with the same masters. 7,955 labourers engaged for periods exceeding one year; 54,580 for one year or less.

The number of convictions of Indians under the labour laws was 3,324, against 3,934 in 1877. The number of convictions of

employers on complaints preferred by labourers likewise shows a decrease:—

1877 - - - - -	879
1878 - - - - -	770

The convictions for non-payment of wages fell from 760 in 1877 to 471 in 1878.

XVI.—*Legislation.*

Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year; the most important of which were the following:—

1. No. 3.—To amend and consolidate the laws which regulate the Post Office and the Electric Telegraph in Mauritius and its dependencies.
2. No. 5.—To alter the excise duty on Colonial spirits.
3. No. 6.—To amend and consolidate the laws on licenses, and to provide for the more effectual administration of the laws relative to inland revenue.
4. No. 7.—To determine in rupee currency the sums leviable as customs duties and quay dues respectively on goods, wares, and merchandise measured and weighed according to the metric system of weights and measures.
5. No. 8.—An Ordinance to amend the law as to the order and discipline of prisons in Mauritius.
6. No. 9.—To amend and consolidate the laws on fisheries.
7. No. 10.—To prohibit the emigration of Indian immigrants and liberated Africans from Mauritius to any foreign country with which there is no convention with Her Majesty's Government allowing emigration from India or to any place to which emigration from India is not otherwise permitted.
8. No. 12.—To amend and consolidate the laws relative to immigration, and the labour laws of Mauritius.
9. No. 15.—To amend the law of mortgage (hypothecs) and of prescription.

XVII.—*Port Louis Prison.*

The daily average number of criminal prisoners in the Port Louis Gaol during 1878 was 558, against 646 in the previous year.

The centesimal death-rate for the year was 4·3, against 1·19 in 1877.

The total number of persons convicted in 1878 by the courts in Port Louis and committed to the Port Louis Prison was as follows:—

Europeans - - - -	260
Creoles - - - -	975
Indians - - - -	1,452
Chinese - - - -	28
Africans - - - -	112
Other races - - - -	74
Total - - -	2,901

MAURITIUS.

Of the number of prisoners committed, 431 had been previously committed once; 162, twice; 193, three times or oftener.

The sentences they had to undergo were as follows:—

Death - - - - - -	3
Five years' imprisonment or more - - -	22
More than one year and less than five years -	18
„ six months, but not more than one year	46
„ three „ „ „ six months	126
„ one month „ „ three „	316
Not exceeding one month - - -	2,370
Total - - - -	2,910

The offences committed by prisoners amount to 3,502, 444 less than during the year 1877.

Ten prisoners escaped in 1878, eight of whom were recaptured. Two of the prisoners who had escaped in previous years were also recaptured.

The expenditure of the Port Louis Prison amounted to Rs. 92,523, against Rs. 95,988 during the previous year. These figures include all expenses except for buildings occupied. The average annual cost of each prisoner was Rs. 165.

The value of work performed in the prison, deducting cost of materials supplied, was Rs. 8,461.

The approximate value of the out-door labour of prisoners on sanitary and other works was Rs. 18,452.

XVIII.—*Establishments.*

The following table shows the amount paid for salaries, allowances, and contingencies during each year for the 10 years ending with 1878. The payments for the last year amount to Rs. 43,230 more than those of 1877 :—

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1869 - -	2,047,680	250,520	2,298,200
1870 - -	2,024,110	275,450	2,299,560
1871 - -	2,040,030	272,170	2,312,200
1872 - -	2,051,440	246,030	2,297,470
1873 - -	2,049,810	236,110	2,285,920
1874 - -	2,047,500	241,140	2,288,640
1875 - -	2,029,450	228,940	2,258,390
1876 - -	1,988,480	227,760	2,216,240
1877 - -	2,023,340	174,510	2,197,850
1878 - -	2,067,540	173,540	2,241,080

The establishments of the Seychelles Islands are not included.

XIX.—*Trade.*

The value of imports and exports respectively in 1877 and 1878 was as follows:—

—	1877.	1878.	In 1878.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
IMPORTS.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise -	21,873,740	21,193,496	—	680,244
Specie - -	1,720,750	1,099,966	—	620,784
EXPORTS.				
Merchandise -	40,749,960	37,175,156	—	3,574,804
Specie - -	1,262,900	598,634	—	664,266
Grand total -	65,607,350	60,067,252	—	5,540,098

The rates of imports and exports per head of population in the last two years were as follows:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1877 - -	67 67	120 50
1878 - -	62 86	106 51

In addition to the specie noted in the above table as exported, Indian immigrants returning to their country carried with them specie to the value of Rs. 186,446 in 1878, against Rs. 180,600 in the previous year.

The quantity of home-made sugar exported during the last five years and its estimated value are shown by the following figures:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.	Rate per Ton.
		Rs.	Rs. cts.
1874 - -	93,388	22,932,140	245 55
1875 - -	87,449	19,393,780	221 77
1876 - -	115,801	26,980,600	232 98
1877 - -	136,292	37,498,740	275 12
1878 - -	128,329	33,617,848	264 96

The value of the principal articles of home produce, other than sugar, during the above-mentioned period was as follows:—

—	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Vanilla - -	299,510	221,340	264,980	243,360	169,966
Aloes fibre - -	44,030	31,150	72,160	79,290	93,496
Cocoa-nut oil - -	142,970	259,990	170,820	323,500	326,916
Rum - - -	492,680	462,920	510,990	500,890	442,409

XX.—*Observatory.*

1. The buildings for the photoheliograph and thermograph were completed, and various additions and repairs made to some of the other buildings.

2. The photoheliograph was removed to its permanent place.

3. The usual meteorological and magnetical observations were made and recorded.

4. All the meteorological observations, except the direction and velocity of the wind, were reduced, and some progress was made in the reductions of the magnetical observations.

5. Rainfall observations received from 35 stations and temperature observations from seven stations in different parts of the Colony were tabulated, and the monthly means computed.

6. Daily observations of the barometer, thermometer, winds, and weather were received from two stations in the Colony, and also from Rodrigues, but not reduced.

7. International meteorological observations were taken daily at 4.33 p.m., reduced, and despatched monthly to Washington. Various observations were also sent to England and other countries.

8. Seventeen thousand and fifty days' observations taken on board ships in the Indian Ocean were tabulated, and the dates and localities of gales and hurricanes approximately determined.

9. Sun spots were observed on 62 days, and 63 photographs of them taken. These were not reduced.

10. Observations for time were taken daily, when the weather permitted.

11. The time-ball was dropped three times a week.

12. Transits of the moon and moon-culminating stars were observed as frequently as possible.

XXI.—*Royal Botanical Gardens.*

The number of visitors to the gardens at Pamplemousses increased from 69,769 in 1877 to 91,508 in 1878.

The number of plants propagated and sent out in 1878 was 130,387.

Two hundred and ninety-seven plants of different species, and 200 lbs. of seeds of useful plants were imported during the year.

The Liberian coffee previously introduced bore fruit and promises good results. The Brazilian caoutchouc and the plants introduced from India also grow well.

XXII.—*Dependencies.*

(*a.*) *Seychelles.**

The Blue Book report of the Seychelles, prepared by the Chief Civil Commissioner of those Dependencies, is transmitted herewith.

(*b.*) *Rodrigues.*

The population of this Island at the close of 1878 amounted to 1,459 souls, 8 more than at the end of 1877.

Eighty-one births and 25 deaths were registered during the year, and 103 persons left the Island.

Of the 1,459 inhabitants remaining, 850 were males and 609 females.

They were engaged in the following occupations :—

Agriculture - - - -	976
Commerce - - - -	5
Fisheries - - - -	293
Arts and manufactures - -	14
Government service - - -	24
(Unemployed - - - -	147)
Total - - -	1,459

The value of imports amounted to Rs. 54,110, which was Rs. 1,770 more than that of the imports of 1877. The increase is attributed to a larger importation of rice and other provisions.

The exports are valued at Rs. 125,276, against Rs. 65,580 in 1877. The increase is due to a larger exportation of cattle.

The chief article of export was *salt fish*, of which the quantity shipped was estimated at Rs. 68,400.

The other principal exports were as follows :—

	Rs.
1,482 bullocks and cows valued at -	44,460
2,236 goats - - -	6,708
102 pigs - - - -	432
231 bags of beans - - -	2,772
81 bags of garlic - - -	648

The average daily attendance at the Government school was 47.

(*c.*) *Minor Dependencies.*

The following oil Islands were visited during 1878 by the Magistrate appointed under Ordinance No 41, of 1875 :—

The Eagle Islands.
The Solomon Islands.
The Six Islands.
Diego Garcia.
Agalega.

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* *See* page 263.

MAURITIUS.

All complaints from servants against masters, and from masters against servants were heard and decided by the Magistrate, whose reports were laid before the Council of Government.

(Signed) H. N. D. BEYTS,
Mauritius, Sept. 10, 1879. Acting Colonial Secretary.

Mauritius, Procureur-General's Chambers,
SIR, August 28th, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, to be submitted to his Excellency the Governor, my Report on Legislation for 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. T. WRENFORDSLEY,
To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. Procureur-General.

REPORT on LEGISLATION for 1878.

An effort has been made during the past year to lessen the number of applications of a legislative character to the Council of Government.

As far as possible legal remedies have been sought for in the existing local laws; and, when applicable, rules and regulations have been framed under powers conferred by previous legislation.

According to the instructions received from the Secretary of State, the New Labour Law, which had been passed and forwarded for final approval by Her Majesty, was re-introduced to the Legislative Council, in order to amend several of its most important provisions. These alterations gave rise to considerable discussion, but, owing to the spirit of conciliation with which they were accepted on the part of the Members of Council, who represented more directly the planting interest, the law was finally passed, and brought into immediate operation, according to the instructions which had been so received.

The introduction of a new law of this character naturally gave rise to a feeling of much anxiety in the Colony; suggestions were not wanting to make it appear that the best interests of the community would be injured, and, without waiting for results, it was declared that the law, which had received so much consideration on the part of the Secretary of State, had proved a complete failure.

As a rule, however, the planters, who had the most reason to complain, supported the policy of the Government, which was declared to be a desire to introduce the new law with patience

and moderation. It is to be noticed that the gentlemen of the Colony greatly assisted the introduction of the law by the readiness with which they submitted to its necessary provisions and somewhat exceptional restrictions.

Shortly after the introduction of the law, and which took place almost immediately after it had passed in the Legislative Council, it was found advisable to introduce an amending Ordinance. The object in view was to remove doubts which had been suggested respecting the applicability of the law to contraventions which had arisen under the old Labour Law, and which had not been disposed of before the operation of the new law, regard being paid also to certain provisions of the French law, so far as they could be said to apply to past contracts.

This was at once done, and advantage was taken of the introduction of the amending Ordinance to define the legal meaning of the word "master," to give it in effect a more extended meaning, as also to forbid the employment of labourers by persons known in the Colony as "job-contractors" otherwise than under written contract; as also to prevent the employment of labourers known as "new immigrants."

The amending Ordinance met with the unanimous consent of the Council of Government, and the new law passed into active operation without further delay.

It formed a part of the legislative provisions of this labour code that, for the first time in the history of the Colony, power was given to provide rules of procedure for the stipendiary magistrates' courts, and accordingly rules and regulations have since been prepared, and they have also received the approval of the Legislative Council of Government, and are now in full operation.

At this moment a few further rules are under consideration with a view to link the procedure thus created under the law with the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, as also to insure speedy remedy in cases of difficulty which may be met by the right given to appeal.

The stipendiary magistrates have very willingly refused to listen to suggested difficulties, on the application of the law, and they have endeavoured to carry out their more administrative duties with a due regard to the legal obligations enforced by the Code.

These courts have now, it is to be hoped, a perfect system of jurisprudence in all cases of contracts for labour. It is to be desired, in the interest of the Colony, that they will become, as opportunity may be given, courts of "conciliation" as between master and servant.

Up to this moment, I am not aware of any case in which a failure of justice has taken place. At all events no complaints have reached me on the part of the planters, and the interests of the Indians have been zealously looked after by the Protector.

MAURITIUS.

I have also received the assurance of the Protector that he is satisfied with the continued operation of the law, and he has admitted an expression of the readiness with which, as a rule, the planters have met his suggestions and requests.

In a matter of so much importance, it would be still premature to say that the law will not require amendment. It must be remembered, however, that the law was not passed in order to remedy any particular evil, but to provide for the future social status of the Indian, so far as he is a labourer under the provisions of the law.

No laws are more complicated in their legal action, or more difficult to introduce into practical operation, than those which deal directly with the vested interests of an exclusive and powerful community. It has taken many years of political agitation in England to pass a partial labour code or statute by which it is sought to recognise the legal obligations arising under contracts of labour. In this Colony we have ventured to provide for all such requirements by a single code. Too much success, therefore, could only prove to be deceptive. It is to be observed, moreover, that the Colony is at this moment suffering from two causes of great depression: the destruction caused by a cyclone, and the sad results of the cattle disease.

It is satisfactory to state that we have only had two cases of appeal to the Supreme Court under the law as it stands, and in each case the judgment of the magistrate was confirmed, writing therefore with this authority, and with full information from other official sources, I have no hesitation in saying that the difficulties which beset the introduction of the new law have been surmounted, and I have no doubt whatever, if its provisions are enforced with moderation, that it will prove a marked success in the legislation of the Colony.

Ordinances No. 1 and No. 12.—"To amend and consolidate "the Laws relative to Immigration and the Labour Laws "of Mauritius."

Ordinance No. 1 is the Labour Law Code as it was first passed by the Council of Government, but on being submitted to Her Majesty instructions were subsequently conveyed to this Government to effect certain alterations, which were carried out in Ordinance No. 12 of 1878. This Ordinance repeals all the laws relative to labour, and re-enacts them with such modifications and additions as experience has shown to be advisable.

The alterations carried out in Ordinance No. 12 of 1878, beyond a few unimportant changes suggested in Council, were those directed by the Secretary of State's Despatches Nos. 145, 146, and 147 of 1878.

Ordinance No. 2.—"To amend Ordinance No. 36 of 1875, "entitled 'An Ordinance to appropriate to the Police "'Reward Fund the fines hitherto received by Members "'of the Police Force, and to make better provisions for "'the administration thereof,'"

was brought in at the suggestion of the Finance Committee, of the Council of Government. The Committee pointed out that the Police Reward Fund was subject to fluctuation, and might even disappear, it was therefore deemed inexpedient that permanent annual pensions should be dependent upon it, as was the case.

The Police Reward Fund for the future is devoted exclusively to the payment of gratuities and rewards to officers and constables of police, their widows, and children, for specially meritorious services.

Ordinance No. 3.—"To amend Article 44 of Ordinance "No. 20 of 1876, entitled 'An Ordinance to amend and "'consolidate the Laws which regulate the Post Office and "'the Electric Telegraph in Mauritius and its Depend-"'encies,"

provides for the punishment of masters of vessels leaving the Colony who fail to deliver mails received from the Colonial Post master.

By Article 44 of Ordinance No. 20 of 1876, the master of a British vessel failing to deliver mails may, on his return to Mauritius, be prosecuted and punished by one of the district magistrates.

The Secretary of State objected to the clause on the ground that by it magistrates in Mauritius were empowered to punish offences committed out of their jurisdiction.

A suggestion was therefore made, which met with the Secretary of State's approval, by which masters of vessels who failed to produce a receipt for the mails given to them became liable to a penalty provided in the Law.

Ordinances Nos. 4 and 5.—"To amend Ordinance No. 20 of "1877, entitled 'An Ordinance to postpone the coming "'into operation of Ordinances Nos. 2 and 3 of 1876 until "'the 1st April 1878, and an Ordinance to amend Ordin-"'ance No. 22 of 1877, entitled An Ordinance to alter the "'excise duty on Colonial Spirits.'"

These two Ordinances were introduced with a view to postpone the operation of the Metric System.

The second Ordinance was the consequence of the first, it enacted that the excise duty on spirits should continue to be levied per imperial gallon until the 31st March, after which date it was to be levied per decalitre.

MAURITIUS.

Ordinance No. 6.—"To amend and consolidate the Laws on "Licenses and to provide for the more effectual adminis- "tration of the Laws relative to Inland Revenue."

The objects of this Ordinance were threefold, viz.:

1st. To arrange systematically and consolidate in one Ordinance the provisions of the various enactments regarding licenses.

2nd. To amend the defects which experience has shown to exist in our laws, and when necessary to supplement these laws.

3rd. To improve the machinery by which the Revenue is collected, and breaches of the law punished.

The main importance of this Ordinance is derived from its character as a consolidating law, and the advantage of a single law will be understood when it is stated that our license laws extended over a period of nearly 30 years, and it had become a matter of great difficulty to ascertain the actual date of the laws.

Ordinance No. 7.—"To determine in Rupee Currency the "sums leviable as Customs Duties and Quay Dues respec- "tively on goods, wares, and merchandise measured and "weighed according to the Metric System of Weights and "Measures."

The necessity for this Ordinance arose from the recent alteration in the Colonial system of weights and measures.

Prior to the passing of this measure, customs duties and quay dues were levied according to imperial weights and measure, and were payable in the rupee currency. It was therefore necessary, on the introduction of the metric system, to make provision for levying customs duties and quay dues on goods weighed and measured according to the metric system.

The most important part of this Ordinance is the schedules attached to it.

Ordinance No. 8.—"To amend Ordinance No. 31 of 1858, "entitled 'An Ordinance to amend the law as to the Order "'and Discipline of Prisons in Mauritius,'"

was introduced to put a stop to communications between prisoners at out-door labour and their friends, by providing a penalty for such communications.

Ordinance No. 9.—"To amend Ordinance No. 27 of 1876, "entitled 'An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the "'Laws on Fisheries,'"

amends the General Fishery Law, so far as to allow fishing with nets in certain parts of the harbour of Port Louis.

It also allows of nets of forbidden dimensions to be used under certain restrictions to catch bait.

Ordinance No. 10.—"To prohibit the Emigration of Indian "Immigrants and liberated Africans from Mauritius to any "foreign country with which there is no convention with "Her Majesty's Government allowing Emigration from "India, or to any place to which Emigration from India "is not otherwise permitted."

This Ordinance was passed in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State, and a copy of a revised draft was sent out to this Colony, by Despatch No. 55 of 22nd March 1878.

It is proposed to vary the provisions of this Ordinance, and under the instructions of the Secretary of State an amending Ordinance is now pending.

In all probability a revised draft of this important Ordinance will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for final approval.

Ordinance No. 11.—"For applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 438,395 63 to the service of the year 1877,"

is a financial Ordinance which calls for no observation.

Ordinance No. 13.—"To repeal Article 18 of Ordinance "No. 34 of 1852 and to enact other provisions."

Ordinance No. 34 of 1852 enacted that all clerks, assistant clerks, and ushers in the district courts of the Colony should furnish security to the amount of 500*l.*

This security was reasonable at the time when the Ordinance was passed, as then the officers referred to were entrusted with the receipt of money, but since that date arrangements have been made by which the moneys, paid into court are received by a cashier, consequently this security, which was felt to be a burden, was unnecessary.

The Ordinance allows the Governor to adjust the amount of the security to be furnished by clerks and assistant clerks from time to time as may be necessary.

Ordinance No. 14.—"To extend the application of Ordinance "No. 9 of 1870."

This Ordinance was necessary as Ordinance No. 9 of 1870, which empowered the Governor of this Colony to appoint provisional judges to the Supreme Court to act when one or more of the judges of that court were challenged, made no provision for replacing them when they challenged themselves.

Ordinance No. 15.—"To amend the Law of Mortgage (Hypothecs) and of Prescription."

This Ordinance was introduced, promoted, and passed at the instance of the senior inofficial member of the Legislative Council, the Honourable C. Antelme. Mr. Antelme was at one time a distinguished member of the local bar, and his opinion, on such a subject, is worthy of the highest consideration.

MAURITIUS.

The draft Ordinance was introduced so far back as the 2nd of May 1876, and after considerable opposition on the part of a few members of Council, it was finally passed on the 12th of December 1878.

This Ordinance is an attempt to assimilate the law as now existing in Mauritius under the French Civil Code to that of the law of Belgium. The Belgium law, which was altered in 1831, is entitled "Loi sur la révision du Régime Hypothécaire, "16 Décembre 1851. Moniteur du 22," and it certainly presents an outline of this most complicated and somewhat refined proposal.

On the 30th April 1877 a petition was addressed to his Excellency, the then Governor, Sir Arthur P. Phayre, by a certain number of barristers, attornies, and notaries. The petitioners set forth reasons why, as they contended, the Ordinance in question would "not meet with the approval of the largest portion of Her "Majesty's subjects in this Colony," and they prayed to the effect that, a "Commission should be appointed in order to ascer- "tain the opinion of the leading and competent persons of "Mauritius on the expediency of such a radical change in the "mortgage law."

His Excellency was pleased to refer the subject to the further consideration of certain Members of Council, and the Committee reported to the effect that no reason had been shown to lead them to alter or modify their opinion with regard to the draft Ordinance.

Much may be urged in favour of some change in the French law with regard to the liability of guardians. At the present moment the legal responsibility of a guardian acts as a direct encumbrance, and I fear that solvent persons are often prevented from so acting. The amendment which is proposed with reference to prescription is also well worthy of consideration.

The main object which Mr. Antelme has in view is to free land from the burden created by the Code. He desires to do away, except in a limited form, with the legal mortgage of the wife. In England the wife could claim the right to dower, but the application of this right has been varied by modern legislation. Under the French law, it is the right to have a mortgage which still represents her interest.

In the interest of the family the State provides a procedure by which in certain events the wife can come forward and inscribe, or as we should say, register her legal charge. This registered claim takes priority as against creditors and it is "occult" so long as the right remains unexercised.

On the other hand, the French law provides a system of "purge," an operation of law which is not unknown in England.

This Ordinance is an effort to enable the husband to have the interest of the wife ascertained, declared, or barred according as circumstances may arise. Its various sections are so many changes, all more or less contributing to the desired end. At the

present moment the borrower is fettered by the right of the wife to come in and claim her mortgage (in the nature of a first charge) as against creditors. This mortgage, however, is the pledge claimed not only by the wife but by the State for the protection of the wife, a sort of outstanding legal estate, or a long term for years created by the specialty contract under the express provisions of the Civil Code.

Many of the objections raised by Mr. Antelme apply to the present mode of obtaining a release of that power, and in justice to his earnestness it must be observed that, as regards very small estates (particularly to the small patches of land which are held in this Colony), the cost of the legal machinery which is worked is not always in keeping with the value of the interest which is involved.

There is a good deal of force in many of the arguments used by Mr. Antelme, and I am inclined to pay very great respect to what he says, but we do not approach the subject from the same point of view. Indeed I am not sure that I am in a position to do justice to the excellence of his intentions.

So far, the Ordinance is waiting for the approval of the Secretary of State, and it remains to be seen if Her Majesty's Government will adopt a recommendation which embraces within it an organic change in the laws of this Colony,—in other words, will the Secretary of State assume the responsibility of changing a law which has never been varied in France?

The term "occult mortgage" presents some difficulty when we try to apply it to procedure in England; nor is the theory on which it is based in accordance with English thought. As I have already stated, an English lawyer will at once try to reconcile it with our early laws as they were once applicable to dower, and if he has followed the more recent changes of our Statute Book, he will feel inclined to support Mr. Antelme. The tendency of modern legislation in England has been to make all acts public which have tended to fetter the transfer of real estates. Hence the growth of our present system of registration, and it is this publicity which I believe Mr. Antelme is anxious to obtain.

On the other hand, France has hitherto refused to adopt this new system which is said to work with success in Belgium, and it is to be presumed that she still upholds the principles so clearly stated by Mr. Rouher in 1851.

To say the least, the law is of very great importance to the Colony, for we are asked to legislate in respect of a country which is closely associated with the oldest forms of European society; and more particularly for persons who are under legal disability as defined by English law. They are "les incapables" in the words of Mr. Rouher, when speaking in 1851; in point of law, their position is still the same and the responsibility of the Government has not been lessened.

MAURITIUS.

Ordinance No. 16.—" To remove doubts as to the stamp duties " to be levied on certain process of the district courts of this " Colony and to determine the same in terms of the present " currency of the Colony."

This Ordinance re-enacts the stamp duty provided by Ordinance 36 of 1852, regulating district courts, which stamp duty had by oversight probably been reduced by subsequent Ordinances.

It imposes the stamp duty that has always been paid on certain process of the district courts, and it was passed merely to remove certain doubts that had arisen.

Ordinance No. 17.—" To amend Ordinance No. 6 of 1871, " entitled ' An Ordinance to repeal certain provisions of " ' Ordinance No. 8 of 1854.' "

This Ordinance was brought in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State.

It withdraws from the Collector of Customs the share of fines after seizures which he has hitherto received.

Ordinance No. 18.—" To amend Ordinance 20 of 1876, entitled " ' An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the laws which " ' regulate the Post Office and the Electric Telegraph in " ' Mauritius and its dependencies.' "

The General Postal Ordinance No. 20 of 1876 provides a fixed rate of postage for letters, posted in the Island to be transmitted to any place in the Colony.

Experience has shown it desirable that this rate should be altered. The present Ordinance repeals the above provision, and allows the Governor in Executive Council to fix the rate of postage on such letter from time to time as they be expedient.

Ordinance No. 19.—" For applying a sum not exceeding Rs. " 4,993,858 to the service of the year 1879."

This is a financial Ordinance.

H. T. WRENFORDSLEY,
Procureur General.

Chambers, 1st September 1879.

SEYCHELLES.

No. 17.

SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1878.

Legislation.

There were eight Regulations passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners, of which, three were approved, three were returned for alteration, and two were disallowed.

The Regulations approved of are as follows:—

A Regulation to amend Regulation No. 1 of 1873. This is for the purpose of the warden of the Praslin ward being appointed direct instead of the post being held "ex officio."

A Regulation to amend the method of collecting the local rate.

A Regulation embodying the estimated revenue and expenditure for the year 1879. The revenue was estimated to reach Rs. 156,500, and the expenditure, Rs. 147,684 20.

The three Regulations on the subject of roads, fisheries, and licenses that were returned for alterations have been under the consideration of the Board this year, and are re-enacted with alterations. The two Regulations that were disallowed referred to vagrants and a prison at Félicité Island.

The Board by a Resolution decreed that the fresh water brought in pipes to the large jetty should be had by vessels free of charge, and also that any steamers arriving in the night should be visited by the health officer and obtain pratique, if grantable, in order that they should lose no time in entering.

The rate of commission on money orders drawn on the United Kingdom was increased from 1·37 for each pound sterling, about 14¼ per cent. to 1·60 for each pound sterling, or about 16 per cent.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Settlement for 1878 was levied under the following heads:—

Taxes.

	Rs.	cts.
Customs - - -	68,456	18
Quay dues - - -	2,594	65
Licenses (820) - - -	16,682	50
Excise duty on spirits - -	17,022	62
Stamps (exclusive of postage) -	2,229	72
Dog tax (791 dogs) - -	2,458	62
Local rate - - -	20,780	09
	130,224	38

Exclusive of Taxation.

	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
Rent of Crown lands and sales of produce and timber thereon -	4,383	58*		
Warehouse rent and rum storage -	1,416	05		
Court fines and fees - -	5,191	06		
Postages and money orders -	2,481	43		
Market and water receipts and Board of Health charges for cemeteries - - -	2,646	00		
Charges for registration of documents - - - -	1,689	78		
Hospital receipts - - -	1,290	10		
Sundries, including shipping master's receipts - - -	4,020	39		
Estimated value of prison labour -	2,254	87		
			25,373	26
Total - - - -			155,597	64

The revenue was estimated at Rs. 132,350 under 19 heads. Vacant estates which brought in Rs. 228 72 (placed above under miscellaneous receipts) were not estimated for, neither were water receipts, Rs. 806 50, nor Board of Health receipts, Rs. 343 50. Prison labour for the year has been valued at Rs. 2,254 87; this item also was not estimated for under the 19 heads on the estimates, the amount of Rs. 151,964 05 was received, being an excess of Rs. 19,614 05.

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* This is for cash only.

The following is also to the credit of Crown lands for the year 1878:—

Delivered to Public Works Department.

	Rs.	cts.
Planks from Félicité Island, 704 feet - - - -	84	48
Timber „ „ 99 „ - - - -	49	50
Timber and planks from Crown lands, Praslin Island, 7,662 feet -	1,853	04
Timber from Government House grounds - - - -	40	00
239 bags of charcoal made at Capucin Forest for smithy - -	119	50
Timber used at Félicité Island for the construction of houses for political prisoners - - - - - -	2,500	00
Thatch for the same - - - - - -	500	00
Coco de mer nuts made into cups for prison - - -	10	00
Cocoa nut oil, from Government oil mill at Curieuse Island for prison, police, streets, lighthouse, 173 velts - - -	363	30
2,278 lbs. poonac for mules employed in public works - -	34	18
14,000 cocoa nuts delivered to political prisoners, &c. - -	31	50
63¼ cords of firewood from Government forests for prisons and hospitals - - - - - - - -	189	75
	5,775	25
Brought down - -	4,383	50
Total receipts from crown lands for 1878 (exclusive of value of nuts planted) - - - -	10,158	75

In nine items the receipts exceeded the estimates.

	Rs.	cts.
Customs - - - - -	18,456	18
Quay dues - - - -	94	65
Rent of Government lands - -	510	00
Sales of produce, &c. - - -	173	58
Registration of deeds - - -	439	78
Licenses - - - - -	2,682	50
Fines, fees, and forfeitures of court -	691	06
Public hospital receipts - - -	490	10
Miscellaneous - - - -	3,225	33
	26,763	18

In ten items the receipts were less than the estimates.

	Rs.	cts.
Warehouse rent - - - -	475	05
Rum storage - - - -	108	90
Excise duty on spirits - - -	4,977	38
Stamps - - - - -	270	28
Dog tax - - - - -	41	38
Local rate - - - -	219	91
Postages - - - -	201	30
Commission on money orders - -	217	27
Shipping master's receipts - -	133	66
Market receipts - - - -	504	00
	7,149	13

The receipts from customs were Rs. 2,641 51 over last year. The returns for the last four years are as follows for duties of customs :—

1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Rs. cts. 35,548 37½	Rs. cts. 28,986 64	Rs. cts. 65,814 61	Rs. cts. 68,456 18

The total revenues for the same years were as follows :—

1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Rs. cts. 130,236 23	Rs. cts. 106,584 61	Rs. cts. 158,770 37½	Rs. cts. 155,597 64

SEYCHELLES.

In the year 1877 there were special receipts equal to Rs. 5,503 12, which accounts for the larger figure of that year.

The receipts from customs are increasing, but there is a falling off in the manufacture of native rum. The excise duty for 1878 was less than for 1877 by Rs. 3,829 37, and Rs. 4,977 38 under the estimate. The Crown lands are steadily increasing in value, they yielded Rs. 4,383 58 in 1878 for cash against Rs. 3,587 44 in 1877 and Rs. 2,706 84 in 1876. There were 42 more licenses taken out in 1878 than in 1877. The receipts under this head for 1878 were Rs. 16,682 50, and for 1877 Rs. 15,765. The receipts under this head exceeded the estimates by Rs. 2,682 50 in 1878.

The large increase of miscellaneous receipts over the estimates is due to refunds for over 2,325 rupees, and 400 rupees earned by the Government cutter "Wave." Receipts from printing department, Rs. 165 75, and uniforms supplied to police attending political prisoners, 108 rupees.

Registration of deeds, public hospital, and fines, fees, and forfeitures of court showed an increase over the estimates for 1878 by Rs. 1,620 94.

Besides the falling off in excise duty already mentioned, nine other items fell short of the estimates for a total sum of Rs. 2,171 75.

As I anticipated, the customs law (Ordinance No. 24 of 1876) has placed the revenue of Seychelles on a sound footing, and bears out the remarks I made under this head in my last report on the Blue Book of 1877.

The large increase of revenue of the last year over previous years has not only been steadily maintained, but a further increase has been established on sure ground. It is only reasonable to assume that the revenue of these Islands will shortly reach Rs. 200,000 a year.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for the year was Rs. 123,911 00. The amount expended under the items voted was Rs. 125,787 90, being Rs. 1,878 90 more. On 16 items the estimates were exceeded to the amount of Rs. 12,795 08, and on 16 items the sums expended were less than the estimates by Rs. 11,019 08, and on 23 items the actual amount voted was spent.

The extra expenditure on the estimates was due to the following:—Prisoners' rations and clothing, Rs. 3,081 18; hospitals, Rs. 1,991 78; preparing ground for graves in the new cemetery by removing rocks, Rs. 1,489 59; tools and materials for public works, Rs. 1,887 29; transport, Rs. 1,347 16; conveyance of witnesses and fees to ushers, Rs. 522 82; postages, Rs. 233 41; and on five other items, Rs. 484 98.

There were special votes of the Board of Civil Commissioners to be expended from the savings on revenue, and permitted only on condition that the total revenue for the year was not to be exceeded.

These votes were as follows:—

	Rs.	cts.
Government House furniture - - -	4,000	00
Extra boatman and guardian of prisoners' Government grounds - - -	200	00
Paris Exhibition - - - -	750	00
Inspection of schools - - - -	1,000	00
Prison - - - - -	3,000	00
Extension and maintenance of roads and streets	18,000	00
Surveys - - - - -	1,000	00
W. A. Rayner, Acting Collector - -	416	66
Total - - - -	28,366	66

On these votes, sums amounting to Rs. 18,904 59 were expended. Rs. 13,468 66 being expended on roads and streets, Rs. 1,000 on surveys, Rs. 1,297 78 on buildings, Rs. 169 44 was spent on the shed on pier for which construction a vote had been obtained last year but the sum was for materials bought in preparation only, the building itself not being then commenced. Government house furniture cost less than the vote by about Rs. 1,800, and the account is yet due. The Paris Exhibition expenses will cost about Rs. 500 over the sum voted. Rs. 100 remained unexpended for the boatman. The vote for school inspection was fully expended. There was some unforeseen expenditure amounting to Rs. 4,141 31; the principal items being maintenance of lunatics, Mauritius, Rs. 745 50. Expenditure connected with committee's visiting Récif Island and other places to seek for a different quarantine establishment, Rs. 235 83. Fees and counsel on criminal and civil cases, Rs. 1,196 33; share of fees to informers, Rs. 315 75; copying court records, appeals, and other clerical work, Rs. 263 76; hospital receipts for officers' quarters returned (a matter of account only), Rs. 525 25; the houses at Félicité rented to the Government of Singapore for political prisoners had Rs. 303 93 expended on them. Extra premises had to be hired for a warehouse, the Queen's warehouse being full, costing Rs. 288; eight other items came to Rs. 266 96.

The total expenditure came to Rs. 148,733 99 being Rs. 6,864 64 under the total receipts of this year.

The account current with Mauritius for the quarter ending the 31st December 1878 is not to hand. It will lessen the difference. Of the materials bought and supplied during the year, costing Rs. 9,131 72, articles of the value of Rs. 5,241 43 are yet in store.

Imports.

The imports from all countries for the years 1877 and 1878 were as follows:—

Country whence imported.	Value in Rupees. 1877.	1878.
Aden	2,091 70	3,136 73
Alphonse Island	- - -	42 00
America (United States)	11,346 53	14,428 83
Batavia	- - -	6 60
China	- - -	6 00
Cosmoledo and Aldabra Islands	- - -	1,330 76
England	48,541 32	30,144 33
France	77,946 21	132,784 03
Madagascar	15,409 04	—
Mauritius	316,193 59	163,263 84
„ 15,292 bags rice		152,920 00
Nossi-Bé	- - -	14,600 41
Providence Island	- - -	10 00
Réunion	12,000 17	42,900 79
Imports of specie :—	483,528 56	555,574 32
France	- - -	250 00
Mauritius	77,402 86	45,100 00
Réunion	- - -	1,250 00
Total imports	560,931 42	602,174 32

There was a falling off of over 55 per cent. in the importation of specie from Mauritius in 1878 compared with 1877. The importation of general merchandize from the same place being of the same value for the two years, within Rs. 10. The importation of general merchandize, however, from all countries had increased in value by Rs. 72,045 76 over the previous year. Half of this increase, or Rs. 36,440 83 was due to direct trade with Europe. The imports from Réunion had also increased by Rs. 30,000. Nearly half of the imports from Mauritius consisted of rice. Of the general merchandize imported about the same value now comes from England and France direct as from Mauritius.

Exports.

During the year 1878 the export of specie balanced the imports within Rs. 337. In 1877 the exports exceeded the imports of the article by Rs, 51,168 74.

The following is the distribution of the exports of specie for the years 1877–78 :—

Name of Country.	Value. 1877.	1878.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Aden	—	20,000 00
France	3,866 00	3,415 00
Madagascar	13,600 00	—
Mauritius	103,965 20	16,060 00
Pointe de Galle	—	2,000 00
Pondicherry	—	1,500 00
Réunion	7,140 40	3,962 00
Total	128,571 60	46,937 00

The ordinary exports increased over the previous year to the value of Rs. 52,115 92. There were 174,656½ velts of cocoa-nut oil shipped in 1878, against 162,475 velts in 1877, being an increase of 12,181 velts. The shipment of fibre came to 802,657 pounds, against 192,500 pounds in 1877, an increase of pounds 610,157. There is nothing particularly to remark with regard to the other articles exported.

Education.

The were nine schools examined in 1878, being one more than in 1877, and four more than in 1876. The grants recommended by the examiner were as follows:—

Description of School.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Children who pay.	Number of Children taught gratuitously.	Total Number of Attendances.	Amount of Grant in Aid recommended.	Amount of Grant in Aid voted.
					Rs. cts.	
Port Victoria boys' school, Roman Catholic Mission - -	3	33	62	95	1,240 75	Rs. 5,000 were voted by the Board of Civil Commissioners, and this sum was proportionately distributed, following the recommendations of the examiner.
Port Victoria girls' school, Roman Catholic Mission - -	5	76	297	373	2,342 50	
Royal Bay boys' school, Roman Catholic Mission - - -	1	3	43	46	262 00	
Royal Bay girls' school, Roman Catholic Mission - - -	2	—	109	109	756 75	
Boileau Bay boys' school, Roman Catholic Mission - -	1	—	33	33	224 00	
Anse aux Pins mixed school, Roman Catholic Mission - -	1	—	23	23	224 50	
Port Victoria boys' school, Church of England - -	1	—	41	41	268 75	
Port Victoria girls' school, Church of England - -	1	—	51	51	280 75	
Praslin Island boys' school, Church of England - -	1	—	30	30	256 50	
Total for nine schools	16	112	689	801	5,856 50	
In 1877 the results for eight schools -	16	119	617	736	6,714 50	
In 1876 the results for five schools - -	17*	86	484	550	4,340 00	
In 1875 the results for three schools -	9	61	396	457	3,600 00	
In 1874 the results for three schools -	6	66	298	364	2,621 00	

* The number of teachers in the return for 1876 includes those not renumerated; the teachers not renumerated are some of those in the Roman Catholic girls' schools.

SEYCHELLES.

Besides the above, there were eight unexamined schools attended by 222 pupils, of whom 137 were boys and 75 girls. This makes the same number of schools as last year in this category, but there were 66 more pupils attending them than in 1877. The Church Missionary Industrial Establishment for Africans and their descendants had 25 boys and 25 girls on the rolls. The total youth of these Islands ascertained to have been receiving instruction in 1878 numbered 1,074, being an increase of 127 over last year, and 300 over the year 1876.

Population.

Taking the census of 1876 as a basis, the population, with arrivals, amounted in December 1878 to 13,344. In the wards of Mahé and Silhouette Island there were 378 births and 294 deaths, and in the Praslin ward there were 50 births and 35 deaths, Total births 428, and total deaths 329 for the year 1878. There were 59 births less than last year, and there were 87 more deaths. The deaths for the four last years were as follows :—

1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
318	302	242	329

Except compared with last year the rate is but little over the average.

The average of births, however, shows a considerable falling off.

1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
464	487	487	428

The still births (not included in the above return) were 30 for the year 1878, 24 for the wards of Mahé and Silhouette Island, and six for the ward of Praslin.

The marriages for the year were less than the average for the two previous years, but more than the average for anterior years. The falling off this year was principally due to the less number of marriages among the African population. There were only 32 marriages among these people in 1878, while there were 123 for the two years 1876–77. During the current year there will probably be a slight increase of marriages among Africans, but the number that remain unmarried is much reduced, no liberated Africans having been introduced into these Islands since 1874.

Agriculture.

The yield of produce steadily increases as the plantations come into bearing. More than half the cocoa-nut trees now planted do not yet yield, when they all do so the yearly value of their produce will be about Rs. 1,500,000. A large quantity of nuts

and a good deal of oil are used by the people as food. The cultivation of tobacco for export has greatly fallen off. The tobacco was not prepared in a manner suited to other markets than Mauritius. where there was a ready and speedy consumption of it. The high duty lately put on this article at Mauritius being, however, only the same as from other countries, has acted as a prohibition. The duty on oil has had a different effect, tending rather to raise its value, a large quantity is also now shipped direct to Europe.

It will not be long before Seychelles gets renowned for its coffee, cacao, and vanilla; the best judges in Europe state that the small parcels of these articles offered for sale are unsurpassed in quality. The quality of the cacao especially being much remarked, and high offers were made for it. The cacao grows at Seychelles as readily as a palm, and yields largely in a short time without assistance or artificial aid. The Liberian coffee, recently introduced, grows more vigorously than the kind already here, and it will certainly be of much future value to these Islands; this plant flourishes as if it were on its native soil, it comes best on the open slopes of hills, and it does not require, and is better for not having any shade. The cultivation of vanilla is getting widely spread; growing around and under fruit trees, cloves, and cacao, it takes up, as it were, no ground, and the household can see to its preparation; the method of cultivation and of preparing the pods are becoming known, and this produce also will be of considerable value before long.

The Seychelles climate and soil give practical proof that no country in the world can surpass these Islands, while few even of the most favoured for the purpose can equal them in the quality of the produce above named, or in the facility with which it can be raised. It is also to be remarked that the cultivation of these high priced products succeeds well and gives a valuable return when conducted on a small scale, even to five or six acres. This, I venture to say, is an important point to be kept in view by the Government. The subdivision of land in these Islands is on the increase, and, without a suitable cultivation, indigence if not poverty would fall on the descendants of proprietors now well off. A cocoa-nut plantation must be of some extent to supply the wants of an average family, but cacao, vanilla, coffee, and spices carefully raised on a few acres will keep a family in ample means. The land here, in this respect, may be compared to the richest vine districts of Europe.

The acreage of these Islands has been much under estimated. 57,000 acres have been the utmost hitherto computed. Before the cession to England the French Government had already granted in different ways 72,000 arpents, which means much more than that number of acres. The area of Mahé Island cannot be under 110 square miles, of Praslin Island 27 square miles, and the other Islands of the Archipelago collectively 27 square miles, or 164 square miles at the lowest in all, or 104,960 acres.

SEYCHELLES.

About one-fourth of Mahé Island is cultivated -	17,600
One-fifth of Praslin - - - -	3,456
„ of the other Islands of the group -	3,456
Total cultivated acres - -	24,512

Two thousand acres are computed to be under cinnamon, of which no use is made except as firewood. About 3,102 acres in cocoa-nut and other growth, being either badly planted, abandoned, or allowed to be overgrown with weeds, is ranked with the uncultivated land, which, together with waste and barren places, is separately computed at 35,346 acres; 40,000 acres are reckoned to be forest. As far as the growth of the cocoa-nut tree is concerned, the best land for the purpose in these Islands is already planted. It is clear, considering the capabilities of the soil and climate, that a very fair field is open for enterprise in the cultivation of the high classes of produce which grow and yield best on the ground now lying waste. It is a misfortune that the forests in private hands are gradually being destroyed. They are not always cut down for the object of being replaced by other cultivation. The officer of the Praslin ward, when forwarding me the agricultural return, says :—" A total clearing of the forests " is daily taking place for the sake of their marketable timber " without the proprietor giving any consideration for the future, " whereas a partial thinning from time to time would make them " a permanent source of income. The fine and valuable woods " Natte, Gayac, and Capucin are becoming more and more scarce, " and will in a short time disappear from our forests. The same can be said of the Island of Mahé. The Government has in the Islands of Mahé, Praslin, and Ladigue considerable quantities of land, generally in the mountains, some is in the possession of Government, and some is squatted on; a good deal of the Government forests have also been seriously damaged and destroyed by these squatters. The future welfare of the Seychelles Islands will depend largely upon the Government assuming possession of the property that was in former times probably reserved to it for the object of preserving a certain amount of forest land.

During the past year 8,900 seeds of Capucin, Takamaka, and other woods were planted on the Government forest ground, in Mahé Island. In the Government Island of Curieuse 2,121 cocoa-nut trees were planted during the same period, and in the Government Island of Félicité, 947 cocoa-nut trees. This makes 5,278 cocoa-nut trees now growing in Curieuse Island, of which about 2,000 are in bearing, and 16,369 cocoa-nut trees growing on Félicité Island, of which about 4,000 are in bearing, or will be so shortly. There are 2,668 coco de mer trees on Curieuse Island, of which 1,196 bear fruit. Most of these latter are in a dwarfed condition from their hearts having been cut out repeatedly to make into straw, and it will take some time for them to recover their native vitality. In the Island of Félicité the young forest trees are thriving well and will be a source of income in the

future. The Government has a considerable acreage of forest and coco de mer land at Praslin Island, some good forest and other land at Ladigue Island, and a large acreage of first-class forest land at Mahè Island. The various Crown lands of Seychelles in five years' time will give a net profit of Rs. 20,000 a year at least, leaving sufficient means to pay all expenses of supervision and planting of forests. The great quantity of waste, uncultivated, and unoccupied land now in the hands of private individuals will, in course of time, be sought after and cultivated, when its value becomes known, and its capability of bearing coffee and other valuable produce be established in public estimation.

Commerce.

Ninety merchant vessels measuring 31,161 tons entered Port Victoria harbour. This is nine vessels more and 9,632 tons less than last year; and 16 vessels more and 8,694 tons less than in 1876; and nine vessels more and 3,512 tons more than in 1875. 216 passengers arrived during the year, against 379 last year, 246 in 1876, and 407 in 1875. 126 seamen were engaged and 92 were discharged before the shipping master, being 41 less engaged, and 84 less discharged, than last year, and 110 less engaged and 105 less discharged than in 1876. The falling off is somewhat due to less engagements and discharges for whaling purposes. Eight British and one French war steamer arrived, during the year, being the same as for 1877. Twenty-four of the merchant vessels that entered Port Victoria were from Mauritius, 13 from Aden, two from Nossi-Bé, two from France, one from Singapore, 15 from the neighbouring Islands, and 16 from whaling.

Post Office.

The number of letters received from and sent abroad during 1878 came to 13,610, of which 778 were registered, 134 samples and 476 books were likewise received from and sent abroad through the Post Office in 1878. Thirteen thousand and seventeen newspapers were received.

The money orders issued on Mauritius came only to Rs. 1650 70, against Rs. 20,074 47 in 1877, and money orders issued at Mauritius, on Seychelles, to only Rs. 1,863 53. The money orders issued on the United Kingdom came only to Rs. 795 50; and those payable in Seychelles to Rs. 25 only. The commission received for the above money orders was Rs. 166 22. In former years large sums used to be remitted to Mauritius by P.O. Orders.

Public Works and Roads.

During the year 1878 the North-east Road from Port Victoria was advanced over 652 yards; this road is 20 feet wide. Three hundred yards had to be levelled through ground encumbered with rocks of granite requiring much blasting and labour, and 300 yards had to be filled in and walled, taking 60,000 cubic feet of earth and stones. A bridge was made on this road over the Quincy River The bridge is supported on solid walls of masonry, 16 feet above the bed of the river. The south coast road, leading from Cascade

SEYCHELLES.

to Pointe La Rue, was advanced 534⅔ yards. This work was done by contract at Rs. 13 the yard; the greatest part is a causeway on the seashore. This road is also 20 feet wide; it took 27,000 cubic feet of stones for side walls, and 40,500 cubic feet of stones, coral, and earth to fill in. The part finished (and for about a like distance more) is on the most difficult place for the road to pass in this direction.

The Port Victoria Cascade Road was drained for about two miles; the several causeways on its whole length were strengthened and repaired; three wooden bridges were also made on this road and five repaired during the year 1878. This part of the south coast road is six miles long. The Port Victoria Grande Anse and Barbaron road was repaired, and some parts levelled. The Port Victoria and North-west Bay Road was levelled and drained for a length of two miles, and three bridges were repaired on it. A new bridge of stone and coral, the first of its kind in Seychelles, was built over the Bel-Ombre River at a dangerous but much frequented crossing. The bridge has a single arch, 14 feet long, inside measurement, and is six feet wide, the side rails are of capucin wood, the approaches are in masonry of granite. A bridge of wood on the North-east coast road, over the Caïman River had to be taken down and rebuilt. Three new wooden bridges were made in the town in 1878, all are 20 feet wide; one is over the St. Louis River, one is over the Factory River, and the other called Malacoff Bridge is also over the Factory River. Some of the other existing bridges required repairs.

Considerable alterations were made in the streets of the town. Bazar Street, the principal thoroughfare, was widened by 4 feet, levelled to a length of 635 feet, drained by gutters of masonry on each side, and well macadamised. Royal Street, throughout a length of 1,920 feet, was widened by eight feet, and levelled and macadamised; the work in some places being extremely heavy and requiring much blasting through granite rocks. This street, stretching from the sea to North-west Bay Road, is now 20 feet wide, and drained throughout its whole length by gutters of masonry on each side. Quincy Street was drained for a length of 190 feet; its surface waters, and those of Upper Bazar Street, which it intersects, were led into the river. A sea wall was built from the Fibre Factory to the Moussa River, a distance of 546 feet, and a new street, the continuation of Albert Street, was filled in, and macadamised along the same length. This street has also been drained throughout with gutters in masonry. A new wooden bridge was also made over the river Moussa at the north end of this street.

The condemned water police station and boat house had to be taken down and rebuilt. The prison and police cells had also to be rebuilt. Considerable repairs had to be made to Government House, the structure being in danger from decay and white ants; the shingling had to be renewed. A portion of the St. Louis River was diverted into pipes for supplying the upper part of the town with water. The lighting of the streets was increased, and other minor works completed during the year.

A wall 136 feet long and 4 feet high was built along the river St. Louis and the swampy ground near the custom house, to reclaim it. Before long it will be necessary to take steps to fill in the foreshore in front of the town. The material being handy, the expense would not be great, and it would be more than covered by the value of the made ground.

Gaol and Prisoners.

One thousand two hundred and twenty-six persons were charged before the magistrate during the year, of whom 903 were convicted and 298 discharged, 25 cases not being disposed of from the cases brought up in 1878. Besides the above, 50 persons were strongly suspected of having been engaged in crime, and larcenies of property to the amount of Rs. 2,128, but no action could be taken. One hundred and seventy-one of the convictions were for crimes and 732 for minor offences; three cases of crimes and three of minor offences remained over from 1877, and 20 cases of crime (including two from the year 1877 for bigamy) and seven of minor offences remained to be disposed of at the end of 1878.

The following is a return of the convictions for crimes:—

	1878.	1877.
Manslaughter	2	1
Drugging	0	4
Wounds and blows	25	16
Threats to injure	6	6
Public outrage and violence	5	2
Arson	0	1
Injury to property	1	0
Offences against currency	1	0
Embezzlement	2	1
Larceny at night with breaking	9	9
Prædial larceny	30	14
Other larcenies	56	30
Receiving or possessing stolen property	27	28
Perjury and subornation	2	2
Adultery	0	1
Defamation and slander	1	0
Escape of prisoners, aiding	1	0
Other crimes not included above	3	0
Usurpation of office	0	2
	171	117

Offenders.	1877.	1878.
Creoles of Seychelles	56	68
Liberated Africans	45	85
Indians	9	3
Europeans	—	11
Other Foreigners	7	4
	117	171

SEYCHELLES.

Of the minor offences 129 came under the labour laws, 19 were for vagrancy, 93 for drunkenness, 31 for assaults, 127 for breach of market regulations, 76 for breach of license laws, and 257 were for various other offences.

1877.	1878.	——
261	434	Of the minor offenders were Creoles.
127	216	„ „ Africans.
23	44	„ „ Indians.
5	19	„ „ Europeans.
29	19	„ „ Foreigners.
445	732	

The last year's (1877) return for the above offences were not complete, and an exact comparison is not therefore practicable. The 1877 returns gave only the number of persons charged and convicted by the police, and not those summoned by private persons. But the police returns for the two years may be compared. One hundred and sixty of the convictions for crimes in 1878 were due to the police, being an increase of 43 convictions over the year 1877, and 623 of the convictions for minor offences in 1878 were due to the action of the police, being an increase of 178 convictions over the year 1877. Exclusive of the above, 11 convictions for crimes, and 109 for minor offences were on private summons in 1878.

——	1877.	1878.
Convictions for crime by police - -	117	160
Private summons - - - -	?	11
Minor offences by police - - -	445	623
Private summons - - - -	?	109
	562	903

The increase of minor offences among the Creole population is largely due to offences of a slight nature, over 100 being breaches of the market regulation. The increase of crimes and minor offences among the African population is marked; out of the 903 persons convicted, 301 were Africans, being one-third of the convictions, while they number only one-fifth of the population. The amount of fines imposed and paid during the year 1878 came to Rs. 4,236 50, against Rs. 2,945 75 in 1877. Rs. 4,037 in 1876, and Rs. 2,675 66 in 1875.

The amount of property stolen was estimated at Rs. 5,766 41, of which Rs. 3,554 30 was recovered. Last year the figures were Rs. 1,241 86 and Rs. 842 68. Four hundred and fifty-six prisoners were sent to Port Victoria gaol during the year, being 81 over the year 1877. Six were to await sureties. Ninety were sent to gaol twice in 1878, and 156 more than twice; of the

remaining 210 only about 50 had never been in gaol before. As reported last year, crimes and minor offences are confined to a class. Forty of the convictions were for 3 months or less, 34 from 3 months to a year, 18 from 1 to 5 years, and 3 for over 5 years. The daily average in prison was 57·84/365 against 44·99/365 last year, and 58 in 1876. Fifty prisoners were sent to the public hospital against 23 last year. The monthly average on the sick list was 21 against 13 last year. There were no deaths in 1878. There were none in 1877.

Seventy-three of the prisoners were women, of whom 8 were in prison twice during the year, and 48 more than twice. Most of the remaining 17 had been in prison in former years; 1 was convicted for over 1 year, 1 for over three months, and the remaining 71 for less than 3 months. The average in prison was 6·11/12; 6 were sent to the public hospital. The average age of the women was 25 to 30 years.

Among the 383 male prisoners, 11 were under 16 years of age. 8 prisoners were pardoned during the year, 2 escaped from gaol, and 5 from the working parties outside; they were all recaptured.

Public Hospital and Dispensary.

There were 218 patients admitted to the public hospital during the year. A considerable number were Government labourers, and 50 were prisoners; 19 died, 8 being paupers, 2 creoles of Seychelles, sent by private people, 2 foreigners, 6 Africans, and 1 child. 4,983 persons of all classes attended the public dispensary. The hospital and dispensary cost Rs. 6,284 14; Rs. 1,290 10 were paid in fees, and Rs. 637 94 remained due on the 31st December, 1878.

General Remarks.

The statistics of crimes and minor offences show an increase in 1877 to a considerable extent. I have been unable to trace out any cause for this. Whatever it may have been, it is satisfactory to know that during the current year there is every sign the decrease will be even more marked than the increase was last year. Vagrancy may or may not be on the increase, but the new labour law makes the conviction for it more easy; in the returns it will, therefore, figure more than in previous years. Idleness has many forms here. Were the general population as systematically industrious as it is now the contrary, it is not too much to say the face of these Islands would be transformed materially, morally, and socially, and they would take a high rank among the minor Colonies of England. It is a knowledge of this which causes much discontent among the larger proprietors and others who find it difficult, and sometimes impossible, to get adequate labour for their purposes. They sometimes think differently, but the evil is beyond direct legislative aid. Many years ago Earl Grey, commenting on a like complaint to a Governor of a Colony, said: "Idleness is a vice, but it is not a statutable offence." At Seychelles it is not confined to the labourer, it is a

SEYCHELLES.

serious evil to be combated only by good example, and by demonstrating the profits of industry. It is, no doubt, grevious to see fine properties lying almost waste, and splendid opportunities of making fortunes in sight, and yet unattainable. Energetic men are discouraged at times. Living is so easy here, the urgent wants of life are so few that, until the labourer is raised above his present stage, he has no incentive to undergo the exertion expected of him. Distinct signs of improvement can be observed in this direction, however; marriages have increased much of late years among the labouring population. In 1878 they were largely over the average of former years, although they fell short of 1877, this year, however, will again show an increase. A larger demand for clothing, household comforts, and the decencies of life, has followed.

Many people who are interested in the present welfare and future prospects of these Islands are of the same opinion as the Board of Civil Commissioners, that the manufacture of fermented liquor, locally called "bacca," should be restricted, deeming it to be a cause of much evil, and a feeder of the idleness complained of.

(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

SEYCHELLES LIBERATED AFRICAN REPORT, 1878.

The number of liberated Africans in the Seychelles Islands was put down in 1877 as 2,116 whose residences were known, and 305 whose residences were unknown, being a total of 2,421.

The places where the liberated Africans resided, and their numbers, are as follows, for 1878 :—

Known to be in the Seychelles Islands (place of residence known) - - - - -	1,862
Known to be in the Seychelles Islands (place of residence not known) - - - -	233
In the Admirante Islands (under the jurisdiction of Seychelles courts) - - - -	30
In the Islands Juan da Nova, Coëtivie, and Providence (under the jurisdiction of Mauritius courts) -	21
In Mauritius - - - - -	32
Sailors absent - - - - -	27
	2,205
Place where residing unknown - - -	49
	2,254

This makes the number of Africans on the 1878 list less than the previous year by 167. The diminution is thus accounted for:—

Died at Zanzibar - - -	2
Died at Providence Island - -	1
Lost in brig "Briton" - - -	2
Drowned at Mahé - - -	1
Died at Seychelles in 1878 - -	28
	34

On examining the Seychelles death registers from and including the years 1861–78, 407 liberated Africans are recorded as having died, whereas 280 only were struck off the African register for that period. This leaves a balance of 133 to be struck off. This number added to the 34 above figured makes 167, the difference between 1877 and 1878.

The 233 liberated Africans, whose actual places of residence in these Islands were not known in 1878, were met with from time to time within the last four years.

The adult African is fond of change, and nobody is notified of his movements. He sometimes squats in a lonely valley or ravine in the mountains, on unoccupied land, and in some of the households of the coloured population he is returned as one of themselves; his name is sometimes changed. As no regular account of these transactions have been transmitted to the Inspector of Africans, or are known to him, they remain unrecorded, and hence the reason why the place of residence of some Africans are every year unknown.

The 49 Africans (25 men and 24 women) whose names did not appear on recent lists are probably not in the Seychelles Islands. Until recently no regular record was kept of the departure of these people to Mauritius, or other Islands within its jurisdiction. It is probable, therefore, the inspector is correct in his opinion that these 49 Africans are in those Islands.

The occupation of the African continues about the same. As I remarked in my last report he does not take to the sea, only seven being employed as sailors and fishermen.* He is a good farm labourer and general servant when he likes to work, but he is fond of change and idleness; hardly any inducement will get him to remain a long while with any particular master, or to abstain from long intervals of indolence. Those Africans who are employed on the halves system are engaged only in the raising of food as far as their part is concerned, the valuable produce (cocoa-nuts, coffee, cacao, vanilla, cloves, &c.) being kept wholly by the proprietor. Persons without capital, and some who have it, often hire labour on the principle of giving the labourer a plot of ground free of rent, on condition he works for the owner so many days when he is wanted, without pay. The African leans to these systems, or any systems that do not compel a regular, sustained, and, to him, monotonous and inendurable daily labour. He earns less because he works less, but he is free

* Exclusive of the 27 absent sailors.

SEYCHELLES.

from routine and control, and gets enough food. If he has any taxes to pay, or wants a few shillings, he works for a spell with some one who pays cash.

In all these matters the African follows the Creole labourer, he takes to the life he is placed among. The status of one cannot be distinguished outwardly from the other, both have the same habits of life. The African, however, for strength, if not for intelligence, is deemed the better labourer, and, for the present, at all events, he is more to be depended upon for consecutive work, probably from having fewer connexions beyond the radius of his employment. It is to be observed here that the inducement of a regular bonâ fide cash pay, enough to satisfy moderate wants, is a recent introduction into Seychelles, and it makes slow way, and is reluctantly taken up by some employers. The truck system was much followed. This will now have to give way to cash, but the marks of the old method remain. A cash pay is better for the labourer than the truck system or the halves system (as carried out here); by the former, he sometimes gets what he really does not want, and pays for it, probably, double its worth, and by the latter he never gets the money to buy what he wants.

The criminal statistics of the African population show unfavourably for the year 1878 compared with the Creoles. The cause of much of this crime among the Africans can be traced to the effects of idleness and intoxication. The labouring population of Seychelles manufacture and consume largely a strongly fermented liquor termed "bacca," made principally from the juice of cane and pine apple (the former, for this purpose, being grown in small patches by all squatters and labourers having land). There being no legal restriction on the making of this pernicious drink, notwithstanding the efforts of the Board of Civil Commissioners to impose one, the population gets debauched and ruined, physically and morally, to an extent that is not believed by those unable to see and judge themselves. The drunken orgies nightly held (in private premises) where men and women, boys and girls, dance together with open indecency, the after effects and consequences of intoxication carried to fury point, and, in fact, all the results of the worst of social evils have been known for some time at Seychelles, and such efforts as can be made by the Board of Civil Commissioners have not been wanting to overcome this evil. The remedy proposed, to place the manufacture of "bacca" under the distillery laws, will, no doubt, have the desired effect. At present the police can only interfere where there is a public disturbance, or a nuisance, or on complaint of some party.

The offences against law and order committed by the African are not always due to any natural evil or dispositions in the man himself; they are greatly due to temptations placed in his way, that need not and should not be there, and which he has not the moral force to resist, and intoxicating liquors have a more violent effect on him than on the Creole.

Among the liberated Africans there are also some known by the others to have been criminals in their own country, such as

"Namgoumi" and "Lacayenne." The former a well known burglar and prison breaker at Seychelles, had a somewhat similar reputation in his own land; and Lacayenne was known to be a murderer. The influence for evil of these rather strong-minded men over their countrymen has been observed. Although all Africans brought here are enrolled in the same class there are many differences among them, just as one finds among the races liberated at Sierra Leone. The liberated Africans of the Maccoah tribe are reported to be the most hardworking and the best fitted for field labour, at the same time they are the most stubborn and violent and more given to larceny than any others. The Galla tribe give us the mildest and most moral of the liberated Africans; they are generally married, are thrifty and abstain from intoxication. There are about 10 distinct tribes among the Africans here, about half being given much to theft. Some are of a morose and violent disposition especially when drunk. These social characteristics will eventually be blended, and the roughest parts will wear away by contact with civilization, but it must not be expected that they will disappear all at once. The Government also must take the necessary precautions so that evil tendencies may not be fostered.

In the year 1878, 71 Africans were convicted for offences connected with violence, 64 for larcenies, 26 for drunkenness, 91 for illegal absence from work, desertion from employment, and vagrancy, and 44 for other offences.

The death rate among Africans in 1878 was 14 per 1,000 against 10 per 1,000 in 1877. The births for the year 1878 were 88 against 100 in 1877. In 1878 the marriages were 33 against 73 in 1877.

The weather for 1878 was very rainy and unfavourable to agriculture; it was also bad for the health of the population Creole as well as African. The root crops the African grows partially failed, this would adversely affect the vital statistics as well as lessen marriages; it probably caused some of the increase in crime.

The enclosed report of the Inspector of Africans gives the nature of employment of, and the wages received by, liberated Africans, and other statistics concerning them, for the year 1878.

Signed C. S. SALMON,
Seychelles, 10th July 1879. Chief Civil Commissioner.

SEYCHELLES.

Seychelles Immigration Department,
April 15th, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour most respectfully to submit to you my usual annual report for the year 1878, on the liberated Africans landed at Seychelles from Her Majesty's ships of war since 1861.

Africans not traced in 1877.

1. According to my report on the Africans for 1877 I showed a total number of Africans (305) that I could not trace, and I omitted to state that I had reason to believe that the better portion of them were deceased, and that some of them had probably left the Seychelles Islands.

His Excellency the Governor has since desired to know what became of these 305 Africans, namely :—

Men.	Boys.	Total.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	Grand Total.
181	6	187	117	1	118	305

African register badly kept.

2. In my supplementary report dated the 16th November 1877, I mentioned that I was unable to give a correct account of the Africans still living because the African register was badly kept up in 1866, 1867, 1868, and 1869; that is to say, some hundreds were not registered, some others were registered twice over, and in the four or five hundred names that were registered, the columns of remarks in which it should have been shown to whom the Africans were allotted, were left blank; furthermore the names of the father and mother, and marks were not entered, and, therefore, it was utterly impossible to obtain information from the books.

Civil Status Register.

3. I have since, however, been furnished with returns from the officers of the Civil Status, showing the number of Africans deceased since 1861. These returns may be correct enough as far as to the total number of Africans deceased, but it leaves me in the same position as before, for, in order to give a correct account of the Africans actually deceased and living, it would be necessary to go over the names of the deceased in the register, and to do this, I should be furnished with returns giving the names and immigration numbers of the deceased; the immigration number is not shown in every case on the Civil Status register, and in many cases of deaths the right name given to Africans on their landing, and under which they were registered, was not given to the Civil Status officers when the deaths were registered, because the tickets of the Africans were not produced. Many inhabitants when Africans were allotted to them, changed their names, ministers of religion used to do the same when baptizing them; this practice is very improper and illegal, especially with regard to children who, when their tickets are lost, and with a register badly kept, are not easily traced, and it has occurred to me that some of these children were passed off as Creoles alleged to have been born at Seychelles. Children introduced at a tender age

pick up the Creole dialect so quickly that it is impossible to distinguish them from the Creole African.

Liberated Africans deceased as per return of civil status.

A.—The total number of liberated Africans deceased, as per returns of the Civil Status officers, from 1861 to the year ending 1878 are as follows:—

Men and Boys.	Women and Girls.	Total.
208	199	407

Liberated Africansknown to have died elsewhere.

B.—The total number of liberated Africans known to be deceased, including those whose deaths were not declared at the offices of the Civil Status, Seychelles, are as follows:—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Zanzibar - - - -	2	—	2
Providence Island - - -	—	1	1
Lost with brig "Briton" - -	2	—	2
Supposed drowned at Mahé - -	1	—	1
As per Civil Status, Seychelles - -	208	199	407
Total - - -	213	200	413

Liberated Africans deceased marked off in register.

C.—The Africans whose numbers are checked off in register as deceased and those remaining to be checked off, are as follows:—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Checked off in register - - -	140	140	280
Remaining to be checked off - -	73	60	133
Total - - -	213	200	413

Liberated Africans actually registered.

4. After having given such information as is practicable on the liberated Africans supposed to be dead, I shall now record the number of Africans that are actually registered, and known to have been landed at Seychelles from Her Majesty's ships of war from 1861 to 1874. Amongst this are the Africans since registered by me that were omitted on the register of 1867, landed ex "Penguin," and others. The total number, thus registered by me, is upwards of 150; about 90 men and 65 women.

A.—Total number of Africans registered and remaining after deduction of those dead:—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Registered - -	1,533	1,134	2,667
Deceased - -	213	200	413
Remaining - -	1,320	934	2,254

SEYCHELLES.

Africans located in the Seychelles Islands in 1878.

B.—The under-mentioned are the total of liberated Africans located in the Islands of Seychelles in 1878, *i.e.*, those traced by me :—

Islands.	Men.	Boys.	Total.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	Grand Total.
Mahé - - -	746	114	860	597	67	664	1,524
Silhouette - -	59	2	61	24	1	25	86
Praslin - - -	63	1	64	41	2	43	107
Ladigue - - -	45	4	49	20	2	22	71
Smaller Islands - -	38	11	49	17	8	25	74
Total - -	951	132	1,083	699	80	779	1,862

Africans located elsewhere in 1878.

C.—The under-mentioned Africans were not located in the before-going Islands in 1878, and are in the Admirantes, Mauritius, Providence, Juan da Nova, and elsewhere :—

Where located, &c.	Men.	Boys.	Total.	Women.	Girls.	Total.	Grand Total.
Brought forward -	951	132	1,083	699	80	779	1,862
Admirantes - -	21	—	21	9	—	9	30
Mauritius - -	9	6	15	10	7	17	32
Providence - -	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Juan da Nova - -	12	—	12	6	—	6	18
Coëtivie - -	—	2	2	—	—	—	2
Sailors absent - -	27	—	27	—	—	—	27
Not traced in 1877 -	134	—	134	99	—	99	233
Total - -	1,155	140	1,295	823	87	910	2,205
Not traced at all - -	25	—	25	24	—	24	49
Total - -	1,180	140	1,320	847	87	934	2,254

Africans visited in former years not shown in returns for 1878.

D.—The 134 men and 99 women shown under heading as not traced in 1877 I know are living, because they figure in my list of inspections of former years, and they are no doubt hidden somewhere amongst the hills of the Seychelles Islands ; it is also probable that some of them went to the Admirantes, Juan da Nova, and Providence Islands. It is utterly impossible to keep the run of every African landed in the Seychelles since 1861, unless I had no other work to do than that of Inspector of Africans.

Africans not traced at all.

E.—The 25 men and 24 women not traced at all I have reasons to believe are not in the Seychelles Islands, otherwise I must have come across them during my inspections of the last four years. It is probable also that the 25 men have shipped as sailors on board of Her Majesty's ships of war and American whaling ships that call here periodically to give leave to their crews ; it may be that some of them are at Mauritius or other far

off Islands, the same with the women, who, I strongly suspect, are at Mauritius, Juan da Nova, Providence, or the Admirantes.

5. The number of deaths amongst the liberated Africans in the ward of Mahé were 25 in 1878 against 18 in 1877, and 3 in 1878 against 4 in 1877 in the ward of Praslin; here there is an increase in the mortality in 1878 by 6, this is including all the Seychelles Islands.

Death of liberated Africans in 1877 and 1878.

Wards of	1877.			Total.	1878.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Children.		Men.	Women.	Children.	
Mahé - - -	7	9	2	18	10	11	4	25
Praslin - -	1	3	—	4	1	2	—	3
Total - -	8	12	2	22	11	13	4	28

B.—I hereunder give the different diseases that the 28 Africans in 1878 died of:—

Cause of death of liberated Africans.

—	Dysentery.	Diarrhœa.	Dropsy.	Consumption—Phthisis.	Cold.	Bowel Complaints.	Abcess on Liver.	Paralysis.	Bilious Attack.	Childbirth.	Tetanus.	Venereal.	Worms.	Leprosy.	Of Mind.	Total.
Men - - -	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	11
Women - -	2	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	13
Children - -	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Total - -	3	1	2	5	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	28

C.—I hereunder give the number of deaths amongst children born of Africans liberated, for 1877 and 1878; here there is an increase by 7 in 1878:—

Deaths of children of liberated Africans.

Wards of	1877.			1878.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mahé - - -	14	13	27	15	19	34
Praslin - - -	1	2	3	1	2	3
Total - -	15	15	30	16	21	37

SEYCHELLES.

Cause of the death of above children.

D.—The diseases that the above children died of in 1878 are shown hereunder:—

Sex.	Cold.	Consumption.	Dysentery.	Dentition.	Drowning.	Debility.	Jaundice.	Hooping-cough.	Tetanus.	Tambave.	Tabe mesenteria.	Diarrhœa.	Total.
Males - -	—	—	7	—	1	1	--	1	3	2	—	1	16
Females -	1	1	7	1	—	2	4	2	2	—	1	—	21
Total -	1	1	14	1	1	3	4	3	5	2	1	1	37

Births.

6. The number of children born of liberated Africans in 1878 were 88 against 100 in 1877; of this lot only 20 were born legitimate in 1878 and the same number in 1877. This includes both wards, namely:—

Ward of—	1877.			1878.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Mahé - - -	36	54	90	41	39	80
Praslin - - -	4	6	10	4	4	8
Total -	40	60	100	45	43	88

Thus there was a decrease in births by 12 in 1878 amongst the liberated Africans.

Marriages.

7. The number of marriages celebrated in 1878 figures at 28 against 70 in 1877 at Mahé; and at Praslin 5 in 1878 against 3 in 1877, here is a large decrease. I beg to remark that the number of marriages in 1877 were unusually high in comparison with former years, this may be attributed to a large number of African men and women allotted to the Government who were cohabiting and were consequently advised and assisted to marry; the number of marriages celebrated in former years amongst liberated Africans were not many, and hereunder I give the number of marriages celebrated in each year from 1873 to 1878, both years inclusive:—

—	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	Total.
Mahé - -	1	14	15	45	70	28	173
Praslin -	—	—	—	5	3	5	13
Total -	1	14	15	50	73	33	186

SEYCHELLES.

Occupations of men and boys.

8. After having given such information as I am able to give on the civil status of the liberated Africans at Seychelles since 1861, I shall now enter upon the subject of their employment, &c., and I shall commence with the 746 men and 114 boys located in the Island of Mahé. Of the 746 men, 182 were still under allotment, many of them youths from 15 to 20 years old; and 564 were free labourers, of whom 65 were under contract of service as servants, cooks, and labourers. The 114 boys have not as yet attained the age of 15 years. The minor Africans are preferred by the inhabitants as they are the best labourers.

A.—The above men and boys were employed as follows :—

Occupations.	Men.	Boys.	Total.
1. Employed in agriculture:—			
A. Proprietors	21	—	21
B. Planters working on halves	139	—	139
C. Labourers employed by the month	366	41	407
2. Day labourers	19	—	19
3. Labourers employed in manufacture	15	—	15
4. Road labourers	108	—	108
5. Overseers	2	—	2
6. Carters and drivers	5	2	7
7. Gravediggers	2	—	2
8. Charcoal burners	1	—	1
9. Lime burners	3	—	3
10. Assistant lighthouse keepers	2	—	2
11. Apprentice blacksmiths	2	—	2
12. „ tinsmiths	1	—	1
13. „ carpenters	1	—	1
14. „ bakers	5	—	5
15. „ butchers	3	—	3
16. Seamen	1	1	2
17. Boat and fishermen	4	1	5
18. Policemen	3	—	3
19. Cooks	14	—	14
20. Servants	24	66	90
21. Mattress-makers	—	1	1
22. Hawkers, agents, and carriers	5	2	7
Total	746	114	860

Proprietors.

B.—The proprietors possess from one to four acres of land each; they are all more or less employed in agriculture and in the cultivation of their own land, the work is not very profitable in most cases, some hire a few acres, besides their own land, from neighbouring small native proprietors, and they divide the produce. As far as I am able to judge, their average earning is about Rs. 300 per annum each.

Planters.

C.—The 139 planters are all working on the "moitié system," but the majority of them make hardly a living by this means of cultivation, and many employ themselves, from time to time, as day labourers, their average earning is about Rs. 200 per annum.

D.—The labourers employed in agriculture are engaged on estates, the 41 boys are chiefly employed in the cultivation of

SEYCHELLES.

coffee, vanilla, and cocoa; a few are employed in making cocoa-nut oil; the rate of wages that the boys are in receipt of will be shown hereafter. Of the 366 men, 71 are under allotment and 51 are free African labourers under written contract of service, thus making a total of 122 actually engaged under written contract; the wages of these 122 vary from Rs. 6 to 8 per mensem, except a few who are paid at the rate of Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 per mensem, but these receive no rations, whereas those who get from Rs. 6 to 8 obtain rations besides. The 244 remaining are free African labourers under verbal contract, and their wages figure about the same as those under written contract of service. The majority of these men are employed in gathering cocoa-nuts and making oil; some are employed in planting manioc, corn, and other produce, and the greater portion do task work. The general task given for gathering cocoa-nuts is according to the wages the labourers receive; when they receive Rs. 6 per mensem they have to gather 300 cocoa-nuts daily, Sundays excepted, and they receive Rs. 2 extra per month for every 100 cocoa-nuts they gather per day. I have found that this task is not too hard, as on many estates the labourers finish their task very early, and in no case have I found they performed more than nine hours of labour daily by this means of working, and some labourers plant on their own account after their task is finished.

Day labourers.

E.—The day labourers earn from Rs. 1 to 2 per day, when regularly employed; these are generally employed in boats and lighters and in the discharging and landing of cargo from vessels, but this work, owing to the small number of vessels consigned to this Port yearly, is not permanent, and, therefore, the number of labourers shown under this heading is but small.

Manufactory labourers.

F.—The 15 labourers that figure as employed in manufactures were employed in the cocoa fibre establishment formerly under the name of Eugéne Pallu & Co., and lately called "Société Anonyme," 5 of these are under allotment, and 10 are free African labourers under written contract. A large number of free African labourers used to be employed in this establishment in 1877 under verbal contract, monthly, and it was owing to this that the number of day labourers figured 186 in 1877; at present the establishment is undergoing repairs and changes, in consequence of which only the 15 labourers above mentioned are kept on, the wages these labourers receive monthly are from Rs. 6 to 6 50 with rations, and from Rs. 10 to 11 per month, without rations.

Roadlabourers.

G.—Of the 108 road labourers, 99 were in the employ of the Government, and 9 in the employ of Mr. A. Savy, Government Contractor; of the 99 labourers employed by the Government, 48 were free African labourers of whom about 23 were in receipt of Rs. 12 per mensem, 23 at the rate of Rs. 8 per mensem, and 2 at the rate of Rs. 6 per mensem; those who received Rs. 12 had no rations, whereas the others received rations as per tariff, that is to say:—

Rations.

Daily.			Monthly.			
Rice.	Or Manioc.	Or Pounded Maize.	Fish.	Salt.	Oil.	Or Cocoa-nuts in lieu of Oil.
lbs. $1\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. 5	lbs. 2	lbs. 6	lbs. 1	lbs. 1	15

The above tariff refers to all Africans under allotment; minors under the age of 10 years receive half of the above tariff, but they are generally supplied with table food.

The 51 Africans remaining were under allotment, 3 men were past the age of 21 years, landed in 1874 ex "Thetis," and 48 were youths from 15 to 20 years old, and the wages that these are in receipt of monthly are as follows. I shall add to these 9 others employed as:—

Carters.	Charcoal Burners.	Assistant Lighthouse Keepers.	Gravediggers.	Apprentice Blacksmiths.	Total.
3	1	2	2	1	9

Minors, &c. wages.

Rate of Wages of Government Labourers, &c. under Allotment.

Age.	Number.	Monthly Rate, each.	Total.
		Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
Upwards of 21 years - -	3	7 00	21 00
At 19 years - - -	16	6 50	104 00
„ 18 „ - - -	17	6 00	102 00
„ 17 „ - - -	18	5 50	99 00
„ 16 „ - - -	4	5 00	20 00
„ 15 „ - - -	2	4 50	9 00
Total - -	60	34 50	355 00

Overseers' wages, &c.

H.—The two overseers receive at the rate of Rs. 14 per mensem and rations, they are under verbal contract and are employed one on the Forêt Noire Estate, and the other on the Port Glaud Estate. The work allotted to these men is to see that the field labourers perform their task allotted to them daily.

Wages, &c. of handicrafts-men, servants, cooks, policemen, &c.

I.—All the other Africans employed as handicraftsmen, policemen, servants, cooks, &c. receive from Rs. 6 to 8 per month as wages and their rations, except the children, whose rate of wages will be separately shown hereunder. The 3 policemen receive from Rs. 25 to 30 per month, one boatman who is employed in the police receives Rs. 12 50, one cook employed in the public hospital receives Rs. 16, and one servant employed in the hospital receives Rs. 14 a month.

SEYCHELLES.

Wages of minors from 10 to 15 years.

J.—Of the 114 boys 87 only are entitled to wages at the rates following:—

Age.	Number.	Monthly Rate each.	Total.	Employed with Church Missions.
Years.		Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	
14	21	4 00	84 00	4
13	23	3 50	80 50	1
12	19	3 00	57 00	2
11	10	2 50	25 00	—
10	14	2 00	28 00	2
Total -	87	15 00	274 50	9

The remaining boys are entitled to no wages because they are under 10 years of age, but they are entitled to clothing, namely:

9 years -	- 8 boys.	6 years -	- 2 boys.
8 „ -	- 7 „		
7 „ -	- 10 „	Total -	- 27 „

I have not received any serious complaints from these children, except now and then for having received a correction from their employers, which, from inquiry made, I found they well merited, and they were generally so trifling that I did not feel justified in interfering. 15 of the 114 boys above mentioned are employed or allotted to the Church Mission societies, and 14 were landed with their parents, of whom four are included in those allotted to the Church Mission, the other 10 are employed with their parents and on estates.

Women, how employed, &c.

K.—Of the 597 women, 50 are under allotment, and 547 are free to work where they like, only six of the 547 are engaged under written contract, 150 are married women who attend to their household work, about 300 are cohabiting with men, and they no doubt will in time follow the example of those married, at least they have all promised to get married when they are in the position so to do, and I anticipate a better result in 1879 than in 1878. About 50 women are employed as servants, cooks, and nurses, and the remainder are women leading an immoral life, in fact they are too lazy to work, and are earning a living by prostitution; several of the married women, but not many, have left their husbands and are doing the same. Some of the married women and those cohabiting are also employed from time to time as servants, cooks, and nurses, but not many. They generally earn from Rs. 4 to 6 per mensem besides their food.

The women under allotment and written contract receive from Rs. 4 to 6 per mensem the same as those above, and about 40 are employed in agriculture, the others are employed as servants and cooks. A large number of the married and single women used to work by the day in 1877 at the cocoa fibre establishment, and I think they will return to this work when this establishment recommences to work; on this establishment both men, women,

and children are employed in carrying the cocoa-nut husk to the mill, washing and drying the fibre and putting it into bales ready for exportation. Labourers are generally well paid, and are not cheated out of their earnings by the manager of this manufactory.

Girls under 10 years how employed.

L.—Of the 67 girls, 17 were landed with their parents, of whom 4 are allotted to the Church of England Mission Society, 1 to the Roman Catholic Mission, 2 are orphans with employers, and 10 are with their parents employed on estates; of those landed without their parents, 2 are allotted to the Church of England Mission, and 5 are in the Roman Catholic Mission. The latter receive no wages but are educated, fed, and clad and are brought up to household work; 54 of the 67 are from 10 to 15 years of age and are entitled to wages as hereunder shown, namely:

Wages of girls from 10 to 15 years.

Age.	Number.	Rate of Wages each.	Total.	Remarks.
Years.		Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	
14	15	3 50	52 50	2 are in Roman Catholic Mission.
13	9	3 00	27 00	2 with Church of England Mission.
12	7	2 50	17 50	
11	11	2 00	22 00	2 are in Roman Catholic Mission. 1 with Church of England Mission.
10	12	1 50	18 00	1 with Church of England Mission.
	54	12 50	137 00	8

Thus remaining 13 who have as yet not attained the age of 10 years, and of whom 1 is in a Catholic mission school, and 2 with the Church Mission Society, 10 are employed with their mothers.

I found only one serious case of ill-treatment in which I felt myself justified in prosecuting, this was a girl aged 13 years allotted to a Mr. Godley, who was fined Rs. 50, and the girl was removed and reallotted to another.

9. The Africans brought up in 1878 for various charges of crimes and minor offences, were 391; the convictions were 301, and I hereunder record the most serious charges of which Africans were convicted in 1878.

Manslaughter.

A.—One case of manslaughter pending against an African named "Lacayenne" from 1877 was disposed of in 1878, this man was sentenced to 20 years (since died in gaol).

Attempt at manslaughter.

B.—Two other Africans were charged in 1878 with attempt at manslaughter, and both were sentenced to two years each.

Drugging.

C.—One minor African boy was charged with drugging, together with a Creole African boy, but both were acquitted.

Blows and wounds.

D.—Fourteen Africans were prosecuted for inflicting blows and wounds; one was sentenced to 2 years, and Rs. 1,000 fine, one to 2 years, one to 18 months, six to 6 months each, one to 3 months, one to 1 year, one to 4 days, one to Rs. 5 fine, and one was acquitted.

Threats.

E.—Eight Africans were prosecuted for threats, of whom five were convicted.

Arson.

F.—One African was brought up for having set fire to a pig-

SEYCHELLES.

sty for the purpose of plundering, but was acquitted on this charge, and found guilty of larceny only.

Burglary.

G.—One African was prosecuted for seven different burglaries, he was sentenced on two charges to 6 months imprisonment for each, on two to 10 years' imprisonment for each, and on three others to 5 years' imprisonment for each, or 36 years in all; another African was sentenced to 1 year and another to 10 months, two were acquitted.

H.—Twenty-five Africans were convicted for other larcenies and 16 for field larceny; one was sentenced to 2 years, one to 1 year, five to 6 months, one to 4 months, eight to 3 months, three to 2 months, the others to 1 month and less.

I.—Twelve Africans were convicted for possessing stolen property; two were sentenced to 4 years each, two to 1 year each, one to 8 months, seven to 3 months each, and the others to 1 month and less.

J.—One African was sentenced to 6 months for perjury, and another was acquitted.

K.—I have recorded the convictions of the above cases in order to show that crime is on the increase amongst the liberated Africans at Seychelles.

L.—The following is a recapitulation of all offences committed in 1878 by the liberated Africans.

Offences.	Men.		Women.		Minors.		Total.	
	Charged.	Convicted.	Charged.	Convicted.	Charged.	Convicted.	Charged.	Convicted.
Attempt at manslaughter -	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Drugging - - -	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Blows and wounds - -	14	13	—	—	—	—	14	13
Threats to injure - -	8	5	—	—	—	—	8	5
Arson - - - -	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Swindling - - -	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Larceny at night, with breaking -	11	9	—	—	—	—	11	9
„ prædial - - -	18	15	—	—	2	1	20	16
„ otherwise - -	25	19	3	1	5	5	33	25
Receiving and possessing stolen property - - -	15	9	2	2	1	1	18	12
Perjury - - - -	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Adultery - - - -	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Outrage and violence towards public functionaries - -	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Assault - - - -	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Abusive language - -	4	2	—	—	—	—	4	2
Trespass - - - -	5	2	—	—	—	—	5	2
Disturbing public tranquillity -	35	34	11	11	—	—	46	45
Drunkenness - - -	27	26	—	—	—	—	27	26
Other offences not included above	50	38	6	5	—	—	56	43
Illegal absence - - -	39	20	2	1	—	—	41	21
Desertion - - -	62	49	2	—	6	6	70	50
Other breaches of contract -	9	5	4	4	—	—	13	9
Vagrancy - - -	12	11	—	—	—	—	12	11
Total - -	345	264	31	24	15	13	391	301

By this return it will be observed that out of 2,254 liberated Africans 301 were convicted, making a per-centage of 13·35. Whereas only 903 persons belonging to all classes of the population were convicted in 1878, which gives only a per-centage of 6·94. Providing the whole population is set down at 13,000 thus the crimes and minor offences committed by the liberated Africans are much larger in proportion to the other classes of persons.

Complaints.

10. The complaints of liberated Africans against their employers in 1878 were not many.

A.—Two cases I prosecuted on behalf of two Africans, in the employ of Mr. Sauzier, proprietor of Forêt Noire Estate, against their employer who was charged for inflicting blows on their person, in one case Mr. Sauzier was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 100. But the other charge was dismissed, owing to the contradictory evidence on the part of the witnesses.

B.—I also prosecuted a Mr. F. Godley for assaulting a minor African girl, and he was fined Rs. 50.

C.—A Mr. Cheyron was fined Rs. 20, on the complaint of six Africans, for a claim of rations.

D.—Two Africans complained against Mr. Sedgwick, their employer for wages not paid. Judgment was given for plaintiffs.

E.—An African complained against his employer, Mr. A. Barallon, for one month's wages due; judgment was given for plaintiff.

F.—A Mr. Ls. Lemarchand was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 15 for not supplying his Africans with what was stipulated in the contract.

G.—A Mr. Briard was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 15 for assaulting one of his Africans because the African complained against him respecting wages. This African's wages were paid to him by Mr. Briard after he had made his complaint, and the charge was struck out.

I.—There were several other cases for claims of rations and wages; some were dismissed, and others withdrawn on account of employers and servants having come to a settlement.

Camps and dwellings.

11. As there are few estates at Seychelles that have regular camps, and as almost every African labourer resides in a leaf hut constructed by himself and according to his own liking, I do not see any necessity to comment upon this subject. Africans prefer to reside in remote places, and as far away from the proprietor's dwelling as possible, in order that they may be able to plant some manioc on their own account during their leisure hours.

12. As my chief aim in 1878 was to trace and register anew all Africans landed at Seychelles since 1861, I had no time to recapitulate, as in previous years, the number of days that each African

SEYCHELLES.

was absent on account of illness and other causes, and the amount of wages deducted and paid in 1878; but should this be required I am prepared to make special visits, but I think it is hardly necessary, as the Africans commence to understand the value of money, and they do not hesitate to make their complaints if they are cheated, and except the complaints that I have noted no other serious complaints have been made to me.

13. I have now the run of nearly all the Africans landed at Seychelles, and therefore I will not find it so hard as in former years to discover their abode; at the end of 1879 very few Africans, except children, will remain under allotment, the last band were landed in 1874, and consequently their five years' contract will expire in 1879, but I think that many free Africans will engage under written contract because work is increasing, and labourers are becoming scarce at Seychelles. The new Labour Law, I think, will put a stop to a good deal of disorder similar to what took place on the estates in former years, I find that under the new Labour Law the Inspector of Africans is not empowered to visit private dwelling-houses in which African children are employed. Regulation No. 7 of 1875 that provided for this is, I believe, repealed, by the new law on labour, and so are all other laws and regulations made for Seychelles, this I am afraid will cause some difficulty in my inspections.

14. I have been lately overwhelmed with other work in consequence of which I am unable to report specially on the Africans located in the outlying Islands, but I shall do so next year, it is impossible to do so this year as I am obliged to commence to work and put to the test the new Labour Law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LEIPSIC,
Acting Inspector of Africans.

His Honour the Chief Civil Commissioner,
&c. &c. &c.

SINGAPORE.

No. 18.

Administrator ANSON, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Singapore,
October 17, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the annual report on the Blue Book for the year 1878.

2. I regret to say that the Acting Lieutenant-Governor of Penang (Mr. C. I. Irving) has been unable to prepare a report for that Settlement.

3. The report from the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, Malacca (Major Squirl), is annexed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. H. ANSON.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS BLUE BOOK, 1878.

Financial.

Taxation.

1. There were no changes in taxation during the year.

Receipts and Expenditure.

2. The following table exhibits the receipts for the two past years, omitting fractions, and also the average for the nine years ending 31st December 1876 :—

Heads of Service.	Average of 9 Years ending 31 Dec. 1876.	1877.	1878.
	$	$	$
Land revenue - - -	92,392	114,055	127,329
Rent exclusive of land - -	20,556	3,864	4,321
Licenses - - - -	780,079	1,020,263	1,043,278
Stamps - - - -	167,179	190,938	212,734
Port and harbour dues - -	38,611	53,814	53,169
Postage - - - -	92,472	85,057	67,769
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court -	14,984	50,068	52,390
Fees of office - - - -	2,384	2,875	3,167
Reimbursements - - -	180,314	111,917	105,180
Sale of Government property -	6,002	385	1,375
Interest - - - -	41,749	59,622	25,230
Miscellaneous receipts - -	3,342	1,674	1,668
Special receipts - - -	14,870	28,929	26,849
Total - - -	1,454,934	1,723,461	1,724,459

SINGAPORE.

3. Under the head of land revenue there is an increase of about $13,000, made up principally of $8,000 from land sold, $2,000 for additional quit-rent collected, an increase of $3,000 on rents for the use of beaches and grazing lands, and $4,000 at Malacca for leases issued for commuted tenths of the produce of the land; on the other hand, there has been a decreased receipt at the same place of about $2,000 from uncommuted tenths on paddy.

4. At Penang there has been a decrease of nearly $1,000 under the head of timber royalty. In rents, exclusive of land, there is a small increase of about $400 from ferries. Under the head of licenses there appear increased receipts of $23,000 for the whole Colony. At Singapore there is an apparent falling off from opium licenses, but this is accounted for by the rent for December being paid on the 2nd January 1879, while the apparent increase of $2,330 from pawnbrokers was owing to 12 months' rent being received in 1878 and only 11 months' in 1877. At Penang the apparent increase of $44,000 from opium and spirits was owing to 13 months' rent being received in 1878, and the same remark applies to the apparent increase from toddy and bhang licenses, and from pawnbrokers' licenses, and also to the increase in opium and spirit licenses at Malacca.

5. The revenue from stamps shows an increase of about $22,000, made up of $10,000 for stamps sold for commercial and other documents, and about $12,000 for judicial fees. Port and harbour dues amounted to almost the same in 1878 as in 1877, and call for no remark. Postage revenue shows a falling off of $17,000, but this was owing to the reduction in the rates of postage made during the year.

6. Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court show an increase of $2,000, received from the police magistrates' courts. There is a small increase in fees of office from pounding stray animals.

7. In the item of reimbursements there was a net diminution of $6,737; this arose chiefly from the Singapore municipality having paid 15 months' contribution in 1877 and only 11 months' in 1878. There is a small increase in the sale of Government property.

8. "Interest" shows a decrease of about $34,000, which is accounted for by $26,000 having been received in 1877 from the native states for interest, while none was received in 1878; there was also a smaller demand for copper coins in the latter year, and the profit thereon consequently less. The small differences in miscellaneous and special receipts need no explanation.

9. On the whole, the revenue of 1878 must be considered as satisfactory, for though it only exceeded that of 1877 by about $1,000, there was no real falling off under any head, while there was an actual increase in some, and the revenue of 1877 exceeded by about $60,000 that of any previous year.

10. The expenditure in 1878 was about $4,000 less than in 1877 and about $120,000 less than the revenue for the year.

The expenditure for the last two years with the average for the

previous nine years is shown in the following table, fractions being omitted :— SINGAPORE.

Heads of Expenditure.	Average for 9 Years ending 31 Dec. 1876.	1877.	1878.
	$	$	$
Salaries	496,795	593,667	604,458
Office contingencies	10,952	14,238	15,075
Pensions	44,491	55,364	49,273
Revenue services	7,776	17,193	16,787
Administration of justice	2,464	4,623	4,909
Ecclesiastical	447	524	509
Charitable allowances	1,371	2,690	5,979
Education	22,276	38,770	37,221
Medical	30,790	71,415	84,850
Police	24,298	31,970	26,485
Gaols	36,385	52,380	54,374
Harbour department	7,484	10,806	9,847
Lighthouses	8,065	9,757	7,673
Government vessels	38,306	20,706	21,853
Conveyance of mails	55,693	54,857	24,907
Rent	2,768	4,004	4,475
Transport	20,894	35,515	38,215
Interest	4,032	30,721	78,998
Miscellaneous services	33,042	56,170	50,581
Works and buildings	134,717	160,166	109,992
Do. chargeable to surplus revenue	—	12,778	23,397
Roads, streets, and bridges	54,768	55,604	64,411
Land and houses purchased	2,938	135	—
Military expenditure	261,186	240,491	241,173
Special expenses	15,018	27,549	22,361
Total	1,316,956	1,602,093	1,597,803

11. In salaries there is an increase of about $11,000. There was an increase in the following departments, viz., Chinese Branch (Protector of Chinese and assistants), $12,000; Post Office, $1,000; Judges Supreme Court, $2,500; Police Courts and Courts of Requests, $1,000; and Gaols, $1,000; against which there has been a decrease in the Secretariat of about $2,000; Public Works Department, $1,000; Government vessels, $1,000; and Registry Supreme Court, $1,000.

12. There was in 1878 a decrease of $6,000 on account of pensions, but that was more apparent than real. In medical charges there was an increase of $13,000, caused by an increase of $9,000 for pauper hospitals, $3,800 for lock hospitals, and $2,600 at the other civil hospitals, against which there was a saving of about $1,500, the expenditure for medicines and instruments obtained from England. On account of the police there was an increased expenditure of $6,000 for clothing from England. Rations for prisoners accounts for the extra expense of $2,000 under the head of gaols.

13. The decrease of $30,000 in the item "Conveyance of Mails" is accounted for by the reduction in the rates of postage and the consequent smaller sum payable to Her Majesty's Government as the Imperial share.

SINGAPORE.

14. An increase of about $2,700 in transport was caused in the public works and survey, magistrates and police departments.

15. Under the head of "Interest" there is an increased expenditure of $48,000, caused by the payment of $21,144 for interest on the loan of $100,000 raised in England under Ordinance I. of 1877, and $25,882 sinking fund for debentures paid off.

16. On works and buildings $39,000 less was spent in 1878 than in 1877, while there was an increase of $9,000 on roads, streets, and bridges. Under special expenses there was a decrease of about $5,000, chiefly from expenses connected with the native states, and the loss ($3,231) in 1877 on debentures for 100,000*l.* sold in England.

Assets and Liabilities.

17. The Treasury assets in excess of liabilities at the end of 1878 amounted to $668,500, against $494,878 on the 31st December 1877. This apparent balance of $668,500 in favour of the Colony is not, however, available for immediate use; of that amount $298,832 is a suspense account for expenses incurred during the disturbances in the native states, no adjustment of which has yet been made by Her Majesty's Government; $9,44 is another suspense account for money paid on account of the defence works now being constructed at Singapore by the Royal Engineers under orders from Her Majesty's Government; a further sum of $324,000 is due to the Colony by the native states, and it is impossible at present to say when these three items may be adjusted. The total amount of assets also includes a sum of $180,000 expended on account of the waterworks at Singapore, the repayment of which is claimed from the Singapore municipality by this Government.

Establishments.

18. The following statement shows the expenditure for the 10 years ending 31st December 1878:—

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Total.
	$	$	$
1869 - -	435,125	8,081	443,206
1870 - -	443,429	10,033	453,462
1871 - -	446,253	12,705	458,958
1872 - -	480,953	12,519	493,472
1873 - -	509,503	17,002	526,505
1874 - -	532,844	29,552	562,396
1875 - -	579,777	15,008	594,785
1876 - -	581,723	13,820	595,543
1877 - -	593,667	14,238	607,905
1878 - -	604,458	15,075	619,533

Military Expenditure.

19. The contribution paid to the Imperial Government towards the military expenditure for the year amounted to $235,976,

equivalent to 50,145*l.* Besides this a sum of $21,942 was spent on the maintenance of military posts and works, &c.

20. The average strength of the military force in the Straits Settlements for the year ending 31st December 1878 was 990·16 men, as taken from the monthly returns giving total troops in the Command, Straits Settlements, on the last day of each month.

Education.

21. In regard to education the inspector of schools reports that some of the most important steps yet taken by this Government in educational matters have been carried out during the past year.

1st. The transfer to Government and the re-organisation of the Malacca High School. This school has been hitherto managed by a committee on a grant-in-aid footing, but is now taken in charge by Government at the committee's request.

2nd. The establishment of a training school at the Malay College, to assist in developing the Government system of vernacular schools.

3rd. The framing of a new code of rules for the grant-in-aid schools; the code of 1875 having been provisional, and certain changes, more particularly the removal of fixed allowances to the Congregationalists' schools of all denominations, being deemed expedient.

22. The total number of pupils in all the schools has, on comparison with last year (1877), increased from 3,622 to 3,918, while the per-centage of attendance has at the same time risen from 75 to 76.

23. The general results of the inspection may be summed up as satisfactory. More progress has been shown both in the increased numbers presented (a matter left optional for the last time) and also in the per-centage of passes obtained.

24. In English schools the number presented has, on comparison with last year, increased from 1,061 to 1,400, and the per-centage of passes from 68 to 71. In Malay schools the number presented has risen from 885 to 1,060, and the per-centage of passes from 65 to 72.

Hospitals.

25. The general health of the several Settlements of Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca during the year 1878 was good, and there was no outbreak of epidemic disease at any of the stations.

26. During the year under review there were 13,340 cases admitted into the several hospitals, and these with those that remained under treatment on the 31st December 1877, viz., 1,296, makes a total of 14,635 cases treated; of the patients, 687 were Europeans, and 13,948 were natives; the deaths being 23 Europeans, or 3·3 per cent., and 1,346 natives, or 9·6 per cent. Compared with the year 1877 there has been an increase, taking Europeans and natives together, of 971 cases treated: that is to

SINGAPORE.

say, the European patients have decreased by 128 and the native patients have increased by 1,099.

27. In Penang the General Hospital was early in the year removed from the house used as a temporary hospital near the military lines to what was until lately the old gaol in Chowrasta. A new hospital is, however, urgently needed in this Settlement, and will be erected in 1880.

28. In regard to the Province Wellesley district hospitals for Indian Coolies the death-rate has been very high. The number of cases admitted into the four hospitals amounted to 1,298, nearly all being estate Coolies; the number of deaths was 366, or 25·38 per cent. In Sungei Backup Hospital the number of admissions was 320, and 35·14 per cent. of them died. The principal diseases from which they suffered were sloughing ulcers and dysentery.

The patients were men of a very low class, and having arrived in the Colony from some of the famine districts in India were in too poor a condition to stand even light labour.

Registration.

29. In reckoning the proportion of births and deaths to the population it is necessary to make use of the results of the last census taken in 1871. This census is known now to be inaccurate, the total population being much greater than is recorded. But it is the only official return available, though the deductions from it cannot be considered trustworthy.

Births.

30, The total number of births registered in 1878 is 2,346, the proportion of births to 1,000 of the population being 7·62; the average number of births for the previous five years is 2,853, with a proportion of 9·26 to the 1,000.

31. The distribution of births through the three Settlements, and the proportion to the population for 1878 as compared with the average of the previous five years can be seen in the following table:—

	1878.		Average for Five Years 1873–77.	
	Number.	Proportion to 1,000 Population.	Number.	Proportion to 1,000 Population.
Singapore - - -	483	4·97	436	4·49
Penang - - -	536	5·80	302	8·06
Province Wellesley - -	236		770	
Malacca - - -	1,091	14·03	1,345	17·29

32. The number of births registered is beyond all doubt far below the real number occurring in each of the Settlements, every

allowance being made for the excess of males over females in Singapore and Penang. Even in Malacca, where a better machinery exists for securing registration, the proportion is undoubtedly understated at 14 per 1,000.

Deaths.

33. The number of deaths registered during 1878 in the three Settlements is 6,638, the proportion of deaths to 1,000 population being 21·56; the average number of deaths for the preceding five years is 6,147, with a proportion of 19·96 to the 1,000, which should be taken as an evidence of increased accuracy in registering the deaths rather than any positive increase in the number. This is more especially the case in the Province Wellesley and Malacca country districts in which the returns are on the face of them untrustworthy.

	1878.		Average for Five Years 1873–77.	
	Number.	Proportion to 1,000 Population.	Number.	Proportion to 1,000 Population.
Singapore - - -	2,963	30·50	2,777	28·59
Penang - - -	1,176	14·11	891	13·07
Province Wellesley - -	702		848	
Malacca - - -	1,797	23·11	1,632	20·99

34. Bad as it is, the registration of deaths is in a more satisfactory state than the registration of births, it being more difficult to conceal a death than to overlook a birth. Still the death-rate, in Province Wellesley at any rate, is far too low to be the true one, even when reckoned upon the basis of the census of 1871, which it is generally thought shows a population some 20 to 30 per cent. below the real numbers at the present time.

Careful consideration is already being given to the means of ensuring a more exact census in 1881, and it will probably be found expedient in future to take a census more frequently than at decennial periods.

Chinese Protectorate.

Singapore.

35. The Protector of Chinese reports a continuance during 1878 of the quiet and orderly conduct of the Chinese inhabitants of the Colony. The re-registration of the secret societies was completed in January last, and the total number of members now on the books is 17,906, of which number, 3,862 have joined during the past year. During the period under review the headmen of the various Hoeys have, almost without exception, afforded prompt and efficient assistance when called upon by the Inspector-

SINGAPORE.

General of Police or the Protector of Chinese; and they have shown a marked and growing disposition to refer their disputes and quarrels to the Government, instead of, as heretofore, fighting on every possible occasion. The best disciplined society in Singapore is the Ghee Hok, which now contains 3,294 registered members, yet the whole amount of subscriptions (nominally $1 per head) received during 1878 only amounted to $2,363. The original Ghee Hin Society, again, has on the register 3,425 members, but is at present in a disorganised state, and the subscriptions only amount to about $1,000.

36. During the year 58,643 Chinese arrived in the Colony; of whom, 21,100 came from Hong Kong, 23,466 from Swatow, and 11,415 from Amoy. Besides these there were 1,824 Chinese women. As regards the former, 6,405 were on arrival received into licensed depôts as their passages had not been paid.

37. Two prosecutions were instituted under the Emigration Act, and one of these is worthy of special note, inasmuch as the emigrants were taken from Singapore and handed over to a Malay Raja in Indragiri (a state in Sumatra) where they were forcibly converted into Mahomedans, and made to undergo the usual ceremony. The Dutch Government returned the men to Singapore and severely punished the Raja.

Gaols.

38. The prisons of Singapore, Penang, and Malacca were all of them unusually crowded during 1878, more especially in the earlier portion of the year. The numbers during the year were as follows:—

——	Total Number.	Daily Average.
Singapore - -	2,793	882
Penang - - -	2,873	371
Malacca - - -	337	49

39. No escapes occurred among the long-sentence prisoners. Among the short-sentence prisoners there were three in Singapore, none in Penang, and one in Malacca.

40. The health of the prisoners in the criminal gaol, Singapore, was far from satisfactory. Out of a total of 2,793 prisoners committed during the year the daily average on the sick list was 51·1, and the number of deaths was 65. The prevailing diseases were beri-beri and dysentery.

In Penang, out of a total of 2,873 prisoners committed during the year, the daily sick rate was 31·78, but the deaths were only 14.

In Malacca there were no deaths during the year, and but little sickness. The number committed was 337.

Police.

41. The Inspector-General reports that the conduct of the sub-inspectors has been, on the whole, satisfactory during the year; that he is unable to fill the vacancies in this grade, men with the necessary qualifications declining to join the service upon a salary barely sufficient to provide the ordinary food of a European.

42. There is no improvement in the grade of constables. About one-third of the men recruited in the Colony are from the lowest class of the population, and are lazy and indifferent, and no amount of training would make them efficient constables.

Crime.

43. There was a marked decrease of crime in Singapore in 1878. In Penang and Malacca there was a slight increase. The decrease in Singapore is attributable to:—

1st. To the efficient working of the Chinese Protectorate.

2nd. To the gradual decay of the influence of the Chinese secret societies, their reduced revenues forcing the headmen to disband many of the Sam-Sengs, who were formerly dependent for support on the revenues of the Hoeys.

3rd. To the constant remunerative employment afforded to all sections of the native community during the year.

The state of crime in Penang as evidenced by the returns is unsatisfactory, and is alleged as arising from the dangerous societies remaining very powerful and exerting a very baneful influence over the majority of the people of the Settlement.

44. The Acting Superintendent of Police, Penang, reports that "the secret societies, with the exception of the usual petty "quarrels, have been fairly quiet in Penang during the year, "but have given a good deal of trouble in Province Wellesley, "two serious disturbances having taken place, one in the northern "division between the Red and White Flag Societies, and the "other at Nibong Tebal in the southern division between the "Ghee Hoks and Ghee Hins. In the first case, 17 of the offen-"ders were brought to justice, since which time they have been "quieter, and in the second the disturbance was stopped by "ex-Inspector Pilfert, who came to the aid of the police and "warned the rioters to desist, and on renewing the fight shot "at and killed a Ghee Hok man, when the rest at once dispersed. "Two of the leaders in the disturbance were sentenced to "deportation, but only one was arrested and sent away, as the "other evaded the police by going into Perak territory."

Postal.

45. The following statement shows that there was a falling off in the number of letters, newspapers, books, and parcels received

SINGAPORE.

and despatched during 1878 as compared with 1877, which must be accounted for by the fact that several of the neighbouring Colonies, since their admission into the General Postal Union, exchange closed mails instead of sending their letters as "forward" correspondence to Singapore.

Return showing the approximate number of letters, newspapers, books, and parcels, &c. received and despatched during 1877 and 1878:—

Received.

Years.	Letters.	Newspapers.	Books.	Patterns.	Total.
1877 -	394,532	400,016	22,305	1,760	818,613
1878 -	389,893	380,016	19,560	982	790,451

Despatched.

Years.	Letters.	News-papers.	Books.	Patterns.	Parcels Post.	Total.
1877 -	363,782	231,578	4,807	980	62	601,209
1878 -	351,417	202,578	4,325	746	33	559,099

46. The postal receipts were $21,144 96 less than they were in the previous year. The reduced income is owing to the lower union rates of postage having been in force throughout 1878, whereas they only prevailed during the last eight months of 1877. Notwithstanding this falling off of revenue, the profit the Colony derived from this department in 1878 amounts to 30,268 16. From this, however, should be deducted the annual amount the Colony will have to pay (probably from $12,000 to $15,000) for admission into the General Postal Union and the loss through exchange on remittances.

47. The expenditure of the department, owing to the reduced sum paid to the Imperial Government as British share of postage, was $14,022 15 less than in 1877.

48. The local money order business increased in 1878, but the Imperial shows a decrease.

Savings Bank.

49. The financial position of the bank at the close of the year showed that the total amount due to depositors was $30,789, and that up to that date the bank had made a profit of $339 26.

Trade.

50. The following table shows the value of the imports and exports of the three settlements during the year under these headings :—

	Imports.	Exports.
SINGAPORE :	$	$
United Kingdom - - -	10,855,972	7,250,373
British Colonies and coasting -	18,024,491	8,519,404
Foreign countries - - -	18,378,874	24,252,144
Total - - -	47,259,337	40,021,921
PENANG.		
United Kingdom - - -	6,048,309	2,949,479
British Colonies and coasting -	8,015,348	5,344,968
Foreigh countries - - -	6,798,984	11,914,692
Total - - -	20,802,641	23,009,139
MALACCA.		
British Colonies and coasting -	1,887,165	1,684,907
Foreign countries - - -	906,474	932,136
Total - - -	2,793,639	2,617,043

	$	£
Thus the total imports of the Colony amounted to - - -	70,915,617	=15,069,569*
And the total exports to - -	65,648,103	=13,950,222
Making a grand total of - -	136,563,720	=29,019,791
Divided as follows :—		
With United Kingdom - -	27,104,133	= 5,759,628
British Colonies and coasting -	43,476,283	= 9,238,711
Foreign countries - - -	65,983,304	=14,021,452
	136,563,720	=29,019,791

51. These figures show that about three-fourths of the large volume of the trade of the Colony may be said to be in native hands. Under the heading of British Colonies the bulk of the trade, import and export, is with British India, British Burmah, and Hong Kong. Under the heading of foreign countries the following rank in the order mentioned for the value of their trade : Netherlands India, the imports and exports to which amounted to $17,155,924, Malay Peninsula, Siam, China, Saigon (under the name of French India), Sarawak, and Germany.

52. The total value of both imports and exports was in 1878 larger than in any of the five previous years as the following table shows : —

* At the Government rate of 4*s.* 3*d.* per dollar.

—	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1873 - -	62,647,624	57,927,701
1874 - -	67,117,982	62,642,995
1875 - -	63,137,716	62,493,328
1876 - -	63,784,181	59,215,701
1877 - -	68,764,631	63,915,038
1878 - -	70,915,617	65,648,103

53. The increase is, however, entirely due to Penang and Malacca, more especially to Penang. The imports of Singapore during 1878 were less than those of 1877 by $2,067,980, and the exports by $1,406,486, making a total decrease on the trade of the settlement of $3,474,466. Penang, on the other hand, shows a total increase on its trade for the year of no less than $5,392,892, the increase on imports being $3,205,723, and on exports $2,187,169.

54. The trade of Penang has been rapidly advancing. It has trebled and nearly quadrupled its imports from the United Kingdom within the last year or two, while the trade of Singapore has been comparatively stationary.

55. The following is a table of comparison of the imports and exports of Penang and Singapore for the last six years.

—	Penang.		Singapore.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$	$	$
1873 - -	12,429,206	14,858,819	47,880,090	41,752,145
1874 - -	17,023,461	18,983,173	46,887,070	41,508,798
1875 - -	16,250,691	19,130,917	43,766,201	41,619,519
1876 - -	15,863,873	16,587,521	45,466,070	40,614,783
1877 - -	17,636,918	20,821,970	49,327,317	41,428,407
1878 - -	20,862,641	23,009,139	47,259,337	40,021,921

56. The following table shows the trade of the two settlements with the United Kingdom during the same period in sterling:

—	Singapore.		Penang.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1873 - -	2,326,068	1,757,324	290,441	817,638
1874 - -	2,211,136	1,369,816	341,708	611,879
1875 - -	1,842,272	1,414,875	377,967	778,588
1876 - -	2,178,621	1,427,955	462,851	562,715
1877 - -	2,808,812	1,694,773	701,476	486,028
1878 - -	2,306,894	1,540,704	1,285,266	626,764

Shipping.

SINGAPORE.

57. The shipping return for Singapore shows that 2,185 vessels with a tonnage of 1,619,426 arrived in 1878, and 2,258 vessels with 1,501,366 tons departed during the same year. Of the arrivals 1,569 were steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 1,355,765. Of the departures 1,362 were steamers with 1,221,678 tons. As compared with the return of the preceding year :—

	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1878 - -	2,185	1,619,426	2,258	1,501,366
1877 - -	2,170	1,457,736	2,030	1,285,153
An increase of -	15	161,690	228	216,213

58. As will be seen, from what has been written on the imports and exports, the trade of this settlement has by no means increased; the excess in the number of vessels that arrived and departed over the number of last year may be attributed to the fact that many of them, owing to the depression of trade in the neighbouring ports, came here seeking for freight, as is evidenced by the unusually large number arriving and departing in ballast.

In Penang the return is as follows :—

	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1878 - -	1,706	891,976	1,704	873,136
1877 - -	1,663	795,656	1,664	796,748
An increase of -	43	96,320	40	76,388

While for Malacca it is as follows :—

	Arrivals.		Departures.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1878 - -	566	140,982	567	199,972
1877 - -	544	83,621	543	132,171
An increase of -	22	57,361	24	67,801

(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

MALACCA.

No. 19.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office, Malacca,
April 26, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying report on the Settlement of Malacca for the year 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. SQUIRL, Major,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Singapore.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, MALACCA, 1878.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to $125,036 94, showing an increase of $10,454 12, over that of the previous year.

The increase was principally under the following heads:—

Land revenue, which amounted to $26,871 01, as against $21,276 26; licenses farmed out which showed an increase of $5,669 50; and reimbursements which increased by $1,137 32. Under three other heads there was an increase amounting to $519 99.

The principal decrease was under the head of "Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court," and amounted to $1,524 98. The stamp revenue decreased by $655 35, and under four other heads there was a decrease of $287 11.

The increase of $5,594 75 in the land revenue is due principally to land sales which brought in $4,576 67, as against $996 80; and to commuted tenths on leases which amounted to $13,968 87 as against 9,645 44.

Under the head of "Licenses farmed out" the apparent increase of $5,660 50 is due principally to the fact that the rent of the opium and spirit farms for December 1878, was paid within the year.

The increase under "Reimbursements" was due principally to survey fees.

The expenditure showed a decrease of $9,461 53.

Under the head of "Special Expenses" there was a decrease of $8,982 30 due to the fact that during 1877 two landed proprietors' annuities were purchased.

Under the head of "Salaries" there was a decrease of $1,415 28. This was principally in the magistrates', ecclesiastical, and Medical Departments.

Under "Pensions annuities to landed proprietors" there was a decrease of $1,386, which was partly due to Sultan Ali's pension having stopped on his death.

Under "Education" there was a decrease of $666 69, but there was an increase of $910 under "Charitable Allowances." This is mainly due to the grant to the Sisters' Orphanage having been transferred from the educational vote.

There was an increased expenditure under "Works and Buildings" of $2,554 39, and under "Roads, Streets, and Bridges" of $629 73.

Local Revenue.

The municipal revenue shows a decrease of $410 01.

The total amount collected was $16,704 65, as against $17,114 46 in 1877,

The balance in favour of the fund on 31st December 1877 was $1,602 74, and on 31st December 1878, $665 25, showing a decrease of $937 49.

The total expenditure was $17,642 14, as against $18,535 81 in 1877, showing a decrease of $893 67.

Under the head of "Salaries" there was an increase of $113, and under "Contingent Charges" a decrease of $1,006 67.

Land.

The revenue from land, which amounted to $26,871 01, showed an increase of $5,594 75. Under the head of "Land Sales" there was an increase of $3,579 87, and under "Tenths Commuted on Leases" an increase of $4,323 43.

This increase is mainly attributable to the number of leases for tapioca lands which were issued during the year, for which a premium of 50 cents. an acre is paid, together with arrears of rent; the lands having been in some cases cleared and planted prior to the issue of the leases.

The increase from "Tin," amounting to $558 39, is attributable to the fact that many of the Coolies who deserted the mines in 1877, when the riots occurred, returned to work.

The number of leases issued was 124, as against 4 in 1877, and this number would have been exceeded had the staff of surveyors been sufficient.

Under other heads there was a total increase of $336 17.

A decrease occurred under the following heads:—"Uncommuted Tenths on Paddy," $2,236 93; on "Wood Oil," $299 47; on "Fruits," $395 70.

This decrease is principally owing to the partial failure of the paddy crop through drought, and to the discontinuing of the valuation of fruits and other produce by the pengulus.

MALACCA.

A decrease was shown under the following heads:—

Uncommuted Tenths.

	$	cts.
Paddy - - - -	2,236	93
Wood Oil - - - -	299	47
Fruits - - - -	395	70

Public Works.

The expenditure on public works amounted to $33,829 74, which is about $3,000 above the average expended during the preceding four years.

The expenditure under the head of "Civil Buildings" was $14,205 10, or about $2,500 above the average of the preceding four years.

The following are the principal works that were executed:—Addition and alterations to prison; completion of Tanjong Kling Bungalow; conversion of old military hospital into apothecary's quarters, and construction of police barracks at several stations.

The expenditure on roads, streets, and bridges amounted to $18,554, or about $1,000 above that in 1877.

Survey Branch.

The area of tapioca lands surveyed during the year was 5,825 acres, of which 4,772 were applied for, and 1,053 were encroachments.

The allotment and topograpical surveys comprised 852 allotments, aggregating an area of 4,631 acres, mapped to a scale of 4 chains to an inch.

The average cost of the field work performed during the year was 45 cents per acre.

The total expenditure of the Department was $4,860 99, and the total reimbursements, $2,225 19.

Police.

An increase at the rate of $12 per annum was sanctioned to the pay of the constables of the force, and several men who had left rejoined in consequence.

A new station was built at Bandar Ilir, close to the criminal prison, and barrack accommodation was provided at four country stations.

There were no riots between the members of the Chinese secret societies, and a disturbance between the Mahomedan Red and White Flag societies in town was checked in time by the police.

Education.

The Malacca Free School had during the last few years been steadily deteriorating, and in August Government took over the management of the school, a head master being appointed from the staff of the Raffles' Institution, Singapore. With regard to the vernacular schools, the numbers on the registers have increased from 543 to 686, and the per-centage of passes from 72 to 73.

Five new schools were opened during the year.

The difficulty in obtaining qualified native teachers is still a serious obstacle to the success of these schools. The Malays, in the country districts especially, are extremely apathetic in the matter of educating their children; and until some system of compulsion is adopted, or an education cess imposed, the mass of the people will remain as at present in a state of ignorance.

The Roman Catholic Mission Schools, French and Portuguese, continue to carry on their work with not altogether satisfactory results. The largest of the schools was not open to inspection.

The girls' schools, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, are going on in order.

Judicial.

The number of criminal cases sent up for trial was 21, and the results were as follows:—14 convictions; 3 acquittals; 3 nolle prosequi; and 1 postponement. This contrasts favourably with the number of cases on the calendar for 1877, which amounted to 92.

On the plea and summary sides of the court there were 36 cases tried, in which the amount claimed was $18,843 51.

On the equity side only one case was tried.

On the ecclesiastical side of the court there was an increase of 26 in administration cases, and a decrease of three in the number of probate cases filed, as compared with 1877.

Magistrate's Court.

The Lieutenant-Governor performed the duties of Magistrate throughout the year.

The number of cases disposed of was 1,233, being 118 less than in the previous year.

The number of persons committed to gaol was 291, as against 209 in 1877.

The fines and fees amounted to $3,255 70, being a decrease of $1,751 18.

In the Court of Requests, over which the Magistrate presides as Commissioner, 625 cases were disposed of, and the fees which are collected by stamps amounted to $2,011 75.

In 1877, 632 cases were disposed, and the fees amounted to $2,426 75.

Medical.

The health of the Settlement during the year was on the whole good. There was no epidemic of cholera; a few sporadic cases of small-pox occurred in town, but the patients were all cured.

Dysentery was unusually prevalent and fatal among the Malays in some districts during the early part of the year.

Hospitals.

The number of admissions into the General Hospital was 208, as against 171 in the previous year; five deaths occurred, and the per-centage of deaths to the number treated was 2·3.

In the Gaol Hospital 137 cases were treated. One case of small-pox occurred in the gaol, but such precautions were taken that the epidemic did not spread. The per-centage of deaths to total treated was 1·4.

The number of admissions to the Lock Hospital was 156, or about twice the number of the previous year.

In the Pauper Hospital 534 persons were admitted, as against 335 in 1877. The number of deaths was 79, or 13·7 per cent. of the total number treated.

The number of admissions to the Leper Hospital was 14. The average number of patients was 22. Seven deaths occurred during the year.

Gaols.

There were 337 persons committed to the Criminal Prison during the year. Of these 282 were sentenced to three months or less; 44 for more than three months and less than one year, and 11 for more than one year.

Twenty-eight prisoners had been previously convicted once, seven twice, and eight thrice or more.

The daily average number of prisoners was 49·70.

The daily average number of sick in hospital was two.

Of the 337 prisoners admitted, 5 were Europeans, 196 Chinese, 98 Malays, and 38 Indians.

The general conduct of the prisoners was good.

One prisoner escaped, but was retaken the same night.

The diet was good and sufficient to keep the prisoners in a healthy condition. There were no deaths. Stone-breaking is carried on in separate cells, and shot-drill is practised for two hours daily.

The daily average number in the civil prison was 11·21.

The daily average number of sick in hospital was 0·13.

Two deaths occurred during the year.

The cost of the maintenance of the gaol, including the prison staff, was $5,575 16.

Post Office.

The revenue increased by $53 40 and the expenditure by $30 31.

The money order business was very limited.

Marine Department.

The import and export returns show a large apparent increase in the trade of the Settlement, but as most of the vessels merely call at Malacca, and neither discharge nor take in cargo to any amount, they afford little information.

The number of small coasting steamers calling at Malacca has increased.

General Remarks.

The revenue of the Settlement shows a considerable increase over that of the previous year, principally owing to land sales for tapioca cultivation; and if the Survey Department was further strengthened, there is no doubt but that a still larger revenue might be obtained from this source.

Large tracts of forest land have been cleared by the Chinese, and, owing to the weakness of the Land Office staff, it has been found impossible to check the encroachments on the Crown lands.

The Malay population is very poor, and in a bad paddy season, such as that of 1878, the revenue derived from tenths is extremely small. Although easy terms of commutation are offered, they have a strong objection to avail themselves of them, preferring the system of tenths which has been the custom of the country so long.

(Signed) C. E. SQUIRL,
Major, 74th Highlanders,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

TRANSVAAL

TRANSVAAL.

No.

Lieutenant-General Sir G. WOLSELEY, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Maritzburg, Natal,
April 22, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE to forward herewith a Despatch from Colonel Lanyon transmitting the Blue Book for the Province of the Transvaal for 1878, together with his Excellency's Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. J. WOLSELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 20.

Pretoria, April 12, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward your Excellency herewith the Blue Book for 1878, together with my report thereon.

It is much to be regretted that this was not transmitted before, but it was only after long and tedious delays that such statistics and information as are now furnished were supplied.

The Blue Book and Report now forwarded are the first that have been compiled, and, as it always requires time and labour to initiate such matters, they are not so full and comprehensive as I could wish them to be. But we must only look to the future for improvement, for the records of the past, *i.e.*, prior to 1878, furnish neither information nor statistics of any sort.

Shortly after my arrival in 1879 I appointed Mr. Fred Jeppe to undertake the charge of these compilations, and I am much indebted to him for the assistance he has afforded me.

Instructions have been given to complete the Blue Book for 1879 as soon as possible, and I trust to be able to transmit it during the current year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. OWEN LANYON,
Administrator.

His Excellency
General Sir Garnet Wolseley,
G.C.M.G., K.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2. in No. 20. TRANSVAAL

REPORT on the TRANSVAAL BLUE BOOK for 1878.

Legislation.

IT is somewhat difficult to define accurately what was the state of the law at the time when the Transvaal Territory was annexed to Her Majesty's dominions by the Proclamation of Sir Theophilus Shepstone, Her Majesty's Special Commissioner, on the 12th April 1877.

The Executive Council of the late South African Republic had plenary powers of action during the periods when the Volksraad was not in session, but as soon as that body met the executive officers were expected to submit full reports of all their proceedings to the legislative body as the supreme power in the country, and all the acts of the executive were without exception thereupon approved or disapproved.

Although the Sand River Convention of 1852 gave to the inhabitants of this country the right to manage their own affairs, the first attempt at anything like legislation was when the Grondwet or fundamental law defining the plan of government and the distribution of power, together with the duties of the several officers to whom was entrusted the administration of public affairs, was adopted in 1858. Prior to that the articles or regulations by which some semblance of government was guided were very few in number and simple in character.

In all matters for which the Grondwet failed to make provision, it was enacted that the law of Holland should be in force; and thus the Roman Dutch Law is the common law of this Province now, as it is of all other parts of South Africa, because the Proclamation of the 12th April 1877 provided, "that the laws of the "State should remain in force until altered by competent legisla- "tive authority." It was further enacted that, where neither a local enactment nor the Roman Dutch Law made provision for any given state of circumstances, the custom prevailing in South Africa should take effect and be followed.

With the exception of the Grondwet, the Criminal Procedure Act, and some few other Ordinances, the laws of the country promulgated as such are comparatively few. But there was this peculiarity in the legislation of the late South African Republic, that a bare resolution had the force of law, and, as a consequence, there are few countries where a larger number of, so to speak, private laws (that is measures arising out of private grievances) have been enacted than in the Transvaal. It is impossible, in the absence of indices and other means of reference, to tell what laws of this description are really in force, or what have been repealed, until a thorough search has been made through voluminous records, many of which have never yet been printed.

Not to refer more minutely to the unsatisfactory state of the legislation of the late South African Republic, it is sufficient to remark that many questions are constantly arising as to measures

TRANSVAAL.

of taxation and the revenue resources of the country. It was frequently decided to levy a tax, the resolution imposing the charge and having the force of law was expressed in the fewest and simplest words. But no provision was made to punish evasions, even in cases where, as in the case of the import tax, no provision was made for the collection of the impost. This, however, is only one of many instances in which the laws passed for a pastoral people are found defective and inadequate when applied to a progressive commercial community.

With a view to ascertain and collect what laws and resolutions are still in force in this Province, a Commission has been appointed for the purpose of compiling the laws. This Commission is now engaged in the work of inspecting the old records of the late Government from the earliest days of the Republic, with a view of compiling the laws which were really in force at the time when the territory was annexed. Each year as compiled is translated, and when the work is completed and printed the volume will conveniently show the state of the laws which were in force in the South African Republic on the 12th April 1877.

The only legislation by Order in Council, up to the close of the year 1878, was that of 4th February 1878, ratifying and confirming the Proclamation which on the 18th May 1877 established the High Court, and that of 27th November 1878, which increased the number of judges of the said court, but which did not take effect in this Province during that year.

From time to time Proclamations were issued by the Officer Administering the Government making provision for minor matters which seemed to necessitate prompt treatment, but to these temporary expedients to meet the want of a legislative body in the Province it is not necessary to refer, since they form no permanent addition to legislation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The ordinary revenue for the year 1878 was 75,082*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, and the ordinary expenditure 93,491*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* There was therefore an excess of expenditure over ordinary revenue of 18,409*l.* 3*s.*

The receipts from other sources were 86,195*l.*, 1*s.* 3*d.*, inclusive of a sum of 10,000*l.* remitted to the Treasurer by the Crown Agents; and of 51,703*l.* 9*s.* borrowed of the Standard Bank to pay the over draft at the Cape Commercial Bank on the 1st June, on which date the account was transferred from one bank to the other. This last item is one of account only, and should have figured as such in the annual statement. The payments under same head were 139,385*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, inclusive of 11,813*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* advances, and of 56,703*l.* 9*s.* which includes the sum of 51,703*l.* 9*s.* referred to under receipts.

The receipts by Crown Agents were 111,650*l.* 4*s.* 9*d*; but this sum includes 90,000*l.* balance of Imperial grant, and 20,961*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* proceeds of sale of Exchequer bills and interest. The payments were 112,105*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, made up chiefly of purchase of Exchequer

bills 44,600*l.*, remittance to Treasurer 10,000*l.*, and of repayment of loans to Government 45,452*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, being for liabilities of the State incurred prior to 12th April 1877.

The total receipts were therefore 272,928*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, and the total payments 344,982*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a balance of 111,673*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* due to the Standard Bank on the 31st December, and balance of actual cash in hands of Crown Agents of 5,830*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

The entries for purchase and sale of Exchequer bills represent a temporary investment of moneys in hands of the Crown Agents, to prevent loss of interest, and are therefore strictly speaking merely items of account.

Appended is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the year:—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS in and for the Territory of the TRANSVAAL, for the Year ending 31st December 1878.

HEADS OF SERVICE.	1878. £	s.	d.
Ordinary Revenue.			
Import duties	12,393	17	1
Land revenue	9,921	10	9
Rents (exclusive of land)	53	0	0
Land sales	2,064	12	0
Transfer duties	12,501	8	2
Auction duties	1,013	17	2
Licenses	7,147	13	0
Revenue stamps	5,457	7	2
Poll tax	791	0	0
Railway tax	8,660	12	6
Road tax	352	0	0
Native tax	473	16	2
Postal	4,887	6	3
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	790	12	3
Fees of office	3,522	10	4
Marriage fees	1,275	13	6
Sale of Government property	607	13	9
Reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred by Government	280	15	0
Ammunition	1,687	2	5
Gold fields	391	0	0
Market dues	191	5	1
Public pounds	210	12	8
Interest	407	8	11
Miscellaneous receipts	—		
Botanical gardens	—		
Telegraphs	—		
	75,082	14	2
Other Sources.			
Sums refunded and surcharges recovered	2,385	2	6
Special receipts	2,494	10	5
Deposits	7,219	5	10
Repayment of loans (sinking fund)	1,668	13	2
Advances recovered	10,724	0	4
Remittances from Crown Agents	10,000	0	0
„ to Treasurer for land-drosts	—		
Loans to Government	51,703	9	0
Total receipts by Treasurer	161,277	15	5

HEADS OF SERVICE.	1878. £	s.	d.
Balance due to bank by Treasurer 31st Dec. 1877 and 1878	40,074	7	1
Ordinary Payments.			
Establishments	40,188	19	2
Pensions, retiring allowances, and gratuities	1,804	3	4
Revenue services	1,482	6	7
Administration of justice	1,458	16	0
Education (exclusive of establishments)	756	12	1
Police and gaols (exclusive of establishments	2,608	2	7
Rent	1,641	11	4
Transport	971	15	8
Conveyance of mails	11,187	15	3
Works and buildings	4,888	3	10
Roads, streets, and bridges	1,574	11	5
Miscellaneous services	5,474	11	3
Aborigines	3,079	19	6
Gold fields	1,742	17	1
Botanical gardens	668	10	3
Ammunition	1,407	16	8
Legislative Council	225	0	0
Volunteers	328	0	3
Gratuities in aid of religious, scientific, and charitable institutions	56	5	0
Interest	9,012	8	10
Transvaal native police	2,713	14	6
Hospitals	219	16	7
Colonial defence	—		
	93,491	17	2
Other Payments.			
Special payments	65,042	5	3
Advances made	11,813	12	6
Deposits withdrawn	3,158	15	3
Drawbacks and refunds of duties and taxes levied and surcharges removed	392	1	11
Sinking fund	2,275	0	0
Repayment of loans to Government	56,703	9	0
Telegraphs	—		
Remittances by treasurer to land-drosts	—		
Total payments by Treasurer	232,877	1	1

Crown Agents.

	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand 1st January -	6,286	1	3
Interest - - - -	645	8	1
Sums refunded - - -	43	9	2
Miscellaneous receipts - -	—		
Parliamentary grant in aid of local revenue - - -	90,000	0	0
Exchequer bills sold - -	20,961	7	6
Total receipts by Crown Agents -	111,650	4	9
Overpayment 31st Dec. 1879 -	—		
Grand total, Crown Agents -	117,936	6	0
Balance due to bank by Treasurer 31st December - -	111,673	12	9
Total receipts, including balances - -	390,887	14	2

Crown Agents.

	£	s.	d.
Establishments - - -	—		
Revenue services - - -	30	11	1
Works and buildings - -	—		
Miscellaneous services - -	16	19	11
Botanical gardens - -	—		
Interest - - - -	2,604	5	1
Special payments - - -	1,514	17	3
Colonial defence - - -	5,266	16	7
Exchequer bills purchased -	44,600	0	0
Telegraphs - - -	2,620	0	0
Remittance to Treasurer - -	10,000	0	0
Repayment of loans to Government - - - -	45,452	4	7
Total payments by Crown Agents	112,105	14	6
Balance in hand 31st Dec. 1878 -	5,830	11	6
Grand total, Crown Agents -	117,936	6	0
Total payments, including balances - -	390,887	14	2

Civil Establishment.

Many changes and transfers were carried out for the better distribution and conduct of work, and a considerable saving ensued.

It was found necessary to establish the new district of Standerton, and appoint a resident magistrate and staff of officials there, but the fees and increased taxes payable on town property, together with the facilities afforded for the better collection of land and other taxes accruing in the outlying district, more than counterbalanced the expense thus incurred.

Pensions.

Under this head the sum of 1,804*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* was expended in 1878, but of this 1,740*l.* represents commutation, and actual pensions only 64*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* The item of 1,740*l.* comprises gratuities in lieu of pensions granted to old officers of the late Government, and grants to widows of officers who lost their lives in the service of the country.

Previous to the advent of the present Government there was no system of superannuation, and compensation was simply voted by the Legislature as it thought fit, or felt sympathetic.

The pension and gratuity list for the next year or two will probably be large in consequence of the late wars with natives, by which many wounded volunteers were thrown upon the country, and being poor men will have to be provided for by the State until they are capable of earning their own livelihood, or suitable employment under Government can be found for them.

Public Debt.

The total debt on the 31st December 1878 was 286,524*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* as shown by the following table:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Cape loan 1873 - - -	63,000	0	0
2. Dutch loan 1876 - - -	89,851	6	6
3. Orphan Chamber deficit - -	7,000	0	0
4. War tax to be refunded - -	15,000	0	0
5. Overdraft at local bank - -	111,673	12	9

1. The Cape loan of 1873 was raised for the purpose of redeeming the paper currency, and is repayable by four quinquennial instalments. Interest at the rate of 6 per cent. is payable on this loan half yearly.

2. The Dutch loan of 1876 was raised for the purpose of constructing a railway from Delagoa Bay, but nothing further was accomplished towards its construction beyond the purchase of a quantity of material which has since been lying idle at Flushing and Delagoa Bay, and has greatly decreased in value. Only 71,813*l.* was thus expended, the balance having been absorbed in commission and expenses. This loan was issued in debentures of 1,000 florins each, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, to be repaid by annual drawings terminating in the year 1901. It was originally intended that the loan should be for 3,600,000 florins (300,000*l.*), but the credit of the Republic was so bad that after a year was spent in trying to raise it, only 1,076 debentures had been taken up. These were only disposed of at 12 per cent. below par. But even this rate was only kept up for the above limited sum, by the agents purchasing back some of the debentures. The following directions from the State President to the agents will show that this course was necessary:—

"Should it appear desirable to you sometimes to repurchase some debentures in order to keep up the market price, I hereby authorise you to do so on account of the State, at such prices and to such amount as you may deem necessary to promote further sales."

As an instance of the depths into which the credit of the Republic had fallen at that time, I may mention that the negociators of the loan being left without money to pay the interest for the first coupons, had to raise a further sum for this object by the sale of 50 more debentures, these only fetched 52½ per cent. of their nominal value, so that to provide for a payment of 2,260*l.*, a further debt of 4,580*l.* was incurred. *Ex uno disce omnes*, so far as regards the practical bankruptcy of the Transvaal at that time.

3. The debt on the Orphan Chamber was originally 10,000*l.*, and was incurred by misappropriation of deposits in that office under the late Government; 3,000*l.* was paid off during the year under report, and the remaining 7,000*l.* carries interest annually at five per cent. and will be paid off gradually, as the deposits are claimed, out of current revenue.

4. Shortly before the annexation the Volksraad passed a reso-

TRANSVAAL. lution that each farm should pay 10*l.* to meet the expenses of the Sikukuni war. On this account 20,000*l.* was raised. After the annexation this tax was remitted by Sir Theophilus Shepstone (vide appended Proclamation of 12th April 1877), and a refund of taxes paid under this head was granted; 4,503*l.* was repaid during the year, the remaining 15,497*l.* remains to be paid as taxes become due by those who hold receipts for this impost. No interest is payable on this debt.

5. The overdraft of 111,673*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* at the Standard Bank was incurred to pay off the debt due to the Cape Commercial Bank, from whom the Government account was transferred, and further to meet current and extraordinary expenditure which the exigencies of the country then demanded. Interest on this debt is payable monthly at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. According to agreement this overdraft is not to exceed 150,000*l.*, and payment can be demanded on three months' notice being given.

Imports and Exports.

There are no statistics for imports and exports in 1878, and no data sufficiently reliable to form even so much as a general rough estimate on the matter.

All goods brought into the Transvaal are imported first into the Cape Colony, Natal, or Delagoa Bay, and there are therefore no customs returns from which the statistics might be framed. The import duties charged in the Transvaal are 3*s.* 6*d.* on every 100 lbs. weight Dutch, which is equal to about 109 lbs. English. This is collected on all goods, irrespective of value, and is therefore a very crude and unequal tax. Its collection was both uncertain and partial. Storekeepers only were charged, as private individuals could import what they liked free of duty.

The utter want of system under the late Government for the collection of import and other revenue made it necessary for a new scheme to be introduced and administered by a separate department; but, in consequence of the unsettled state of the country, and the Sikukuni war, the project could not then be carried out, and the absence of any constabulary force rendered any surveillance over inland importation quite impracticable. It is probable that during the year a good deal of smuggling and evasion of duty occurred, to the serious detriment of the revenue.

Taxation.

The direct taxation of the Province is as follows:—

Whites.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Road tax - - -	0	2	6
Poll „ - - -	0	10	0
Railway „ - - -	1	10	0
Total -	2	2	6

In addition to this each possessor of a farm has to pay 10*s.* or 30*s.* per annum according as to whether it is "freehold," or "quit-rent," double these rates are charged if the farm be unoccupied. In town lots the tax varies from 10*s.* to 30*s.*, according to size and occupation. If a person holds more than one farm he is not liable to the poll tax.

Natives.

According to the law as existing at the time of annexation, natives in service should pay:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - -	0	2	6
Pass „ - - -	1	0	0
Road „ - - -	0	2	6
Total -	1	5	0

Those not in service should pay:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - -	0	10	0
Pass „ - - -	1	0	0
Road „ - - -	0	2	6
Total -	1	12	6

From the foregoing it will be seen that the rate leviable on the native (who by law was not able to hold any land of his own) was most unequal in proportion to that paid by the white inhabitant.

By law 3 of 1876—which was, however, never enforced—the native was still more heavily taxed, as by it he was required to pay a further "poll tax" of 10*s.* when living on a large location.

The fact, however, that very little revenue was collected under these laws showed that oppressive class legislation failed in its object because of the inability of the framers to enforce it. Practically, the laws for the management and taxation of the natives were inoperative in the districts principally inhabited by them.

I may mention that one of the first acts of the Legislative Assembly recently constituted by Her Majesty was to repeal all existing laws whereby the natives have been heretofore taxed, and now (1880) a fair due of 10*s.* for each hut only is charged.

Population.

A census of the Transvaal has never been taken, and the want of even an approximate estimate of the population has been greatly felt.

A census of men capable of bearing arms was taken in 1876, which showed the number under this classification as being 7,326. But on account of the inhabitants of some of the principal towns

TRANSVAAL.

such as Potchefstroom and Rustenburg, not appearing in this census, the returns must be considered as imperfect, and under the actual number.

From information supplied by the ministers of the several denominations, the numbers in their several congregations would amount to 35,322. But these returns do not represent the actual population, as there are large numbers of all denominations spread over the territory who either do not attend church or are unable to do so. I think the white population, therefore, may be fairly estimated at from 40,000 to 45,000.

With regard to the native population, the actual numbers are still more uncertain. They have been variously estimated from 300,000 to 800,000. The former estimate is certainly very much below the true number, and from the best information I can gather I should be much inclined to think the latter was nearer the proper estimate.

Native Affairs.

When Sir Theophilus Shepstone arrived in Natal in the latter part of the year 1876, as Her Majesty's Special Commissioner to the Transvaal, the war between Sikukuni and the late Government was still waging.

Sir Theophilus Shepstone sent up at once to the President notifying his appointment, and his intention, as soon as possible, to visit Pretoria for the purposes of his mission.

Every exertion was then made by the late President to conclude a peace with Sikukuni, resulting in the so-called treaty of peace, which was signed on the 5th February 1877, shortly after Sir T. Shepstone arrived in Pretoria.

On hearing of Sir T. Shepstone's arrival, Sikukuni appealed to him, calling in question the treaty. The President was informed of this, and on the suggestion of Sir T. Shepstone a Joint Commission was sent up to inquire into the matter, resulting, as will be seen from the already published report of the Commission, in the repudiation of portions of the treaty by Sikukuni.

The natives in the northern districts were then all more or less disaffected, and under no control, having virtually driven out the farmers from the greater part of the Zoutpansberg district.

The condition of the natives in the more settled districts may be judged from the fact that, though there was a law imposing a hut tax of 10*s.* on every hut, and a poll tax of 10*s.* on every male above 20 years of age, the amount collected in the whole country only amounted to about 4,600*l.* in 1876.

During the critical time, shortly before the annexation, when the Boers were talking of attacking and turning Sir T. Shepstone out of the country, messages were received by him from several of the Chiefs living even in the most settled districts, to the effect that should the Boers attempt to attack him the natives would at once rise on them. But I need hardly say that in every case such overtures were promptly discountenanced.

Soon after the annexation nearly all the Chiefs in the country

came to Pretoria, and those who could not come themselves sent representatives, to see and welcome Sir T. Shepstone. They expressed themselves as delighted with the change, and welcomed the advent of the British Government with gratitude.

They complained bitterly of the fact that the late Government had set apart no lands for their occupation, though most of them were living in the country when the Boers came and took possession.

This question is being constantly brought to the notice of the Secretary for Native Affairs by the various Chiefs. It is one of the most difficult problems which the Government has to deal with, owing to the fact that nearly all the best land in the country had been recklessly given out by the former Government irrespective of the claims of the natives.

From the disturbed state of the country and other causes the hut tax could not be collected, as was intended, in 1877.

In 1878 the troubles with the Zulus commenced, and in the latter part of that year Sikukuni again commenced fighting, so that nothing could then be done.

In fact the unsettled state of the country caused by these troubles and the disaffection among a certain section of the Boer population put a stop to all financial and administrative action towards the natives.

These causes have now (1880) nearly altogether disappeared, and the natives throughout the country express themselves as loyal subjects of the British Government. And they have further expressed their willingness to pay the tax of 10*s.* on each hut, which has now been authorised by the Assembly.

The administration of justice amongst the natives is not yet in a satisfactory state, as there are not sufficient officers appointed for that purpose. The districts are so large that the Landdrosts cannot attend properly to the natives.

Measures are now in progress to obviate this evil, and to bring the native tribes under the immediate control and supervision of Government officers. Six native Commissioners have now been appointed, but more are necessary. Their appointment will no doubt be costly at first, but I feel sure that such will fully repay the expenditure, not only by the regular collection of the taxes and other contributions of the natives to the revenue, but also by inculcating habits of industry among them to earn sufficient to pay their taxes. Thus an impetus will be given towards the development of the resources of the country, the lack of labour being one of the greatest obstacles to its progress.

The appointment of such officers to reside among the natives will also gradually, but surely, tend to weaken the power and influence of the Chiefs, accustom them to European forms of government, and promote the progress of industry and civilisation among them.

Education.

Education underwent a great change in 1878, under the able superintendence of Dr. Vacy Lyle, who succeeded Mr. Van

TRANSVAAL.

Gorkom. According to Mr. Van Gorkom's report of April 1877, there were then in existence only nine schools, with an aggregate attendance of 306 pupils. In 1878 there were 392 children being educated at Government schools and 192 at private schools aided by Government on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education. The amount expended on education throughout the Province was 3,352*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, entailing thus a cost to Government of 5*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* for each pupil.

Dr. Lyle studied the question of education with much zeal, and showed great ability in his administration. His able report of November 1878 dealt exhaustively with the general question. Unfortunately he was unable to furnish any reliable statistics of the previous educational administration.

Sir T. Shepstone paid great attention to this all important subject, and the Government spared neither trouble nor money in adopting measures for its furtherance. The present law is not suited to the requirements of the community. It was, I believe, an adaptation of the law in force in Holland; but however well suited for so advanced and highly civilised a people, it is not calculated to meet the wants of a population where education is so backward as in the Transvaal. I have never been in any place where education so much required the fostering and constant care of Government amongst the white population. The missionaries have done good work amongst the natives, but I regret to say the European schools, as a rule, are far from being so advanced as they should be.

The obnoxious system of granting subsidies for "numbers" was brought to the notice of Government by Dr. Lyle, who condemned it in its entirety, and recommended strongly substituting "payments for results." This change was thoroughly approved of, but could not be effected until the existing law could be altered.

By the introduction of this system a radical reform will take place; there will be greater emulation amongst the teachers for producing efficiency and improvement, a better class of tutors will be introduced, and the actual necessity for establishing or keeping up Government schools will be in time to a great extent obviated.

The Government will then be in a position to inaugurate high schools and normal institutions, which at the present time are wanting.

Public Health.

The general health of the country as far as could be ascertained was very good in 1878. In the absence of district surgeons or medical statistics of any kind, it is impossible to convey anything more than a general idea of the health of the country.

Enteric fever amongst the white population, and small-pox amongst the natives, prevailed to some considerable extent during the rainy season in the low lying parts of the Waterberg and Zoutpansberg districts, but this may be attributed mainly to the ignorance or neglect of the simplest means of preserving health and averting disease, and partly to the fact, that at that time only

two qualified practitioners were practising in the Colony, both in Pretoria, and only one qualified apothecary.

There were several persons admitted and licensed by the late Government to practise as medical practitioners and apothecaries, but they had passed no standard of European qualification.

There is a total absence of anything like sanitary measures, and this has gone far towards propagating disease amongst a people who should be naturally healthy in a climate and country unequalled perhaps for its health giving properties.

Public Works.

The sum expended on public works during the year was 4,904*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, including 1,150*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* for repairs to roads throughout the Province.

Nothing substantial could be shown for the whole expenditure, with the exception of a cottage built for the curator of the Botanical Gardens. This, however, is easily accounted for, inasmuch as when the country was taken over, nearly all the public buildings—both at the seat of Government and in the districts—were in such a disgraceful and dilapidated state that had the Exchequer been equal to the immediate demand, it would have been far cheaper to have pulled down the majority of the buildings and built new ones. The chief items of expenditure were for such necessary additions, and "patching up" repairs necessary to keep public offices from the intrusion of burglars and the effects of rain and dust. A large outlay had also to be incurred to render the magistrates' courts and other offices fit for habitation internally, and for providing them with such scanty furniture as was necessary to carry on the work.

In like manner the sum of 1,150*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* was expended on the roads, if one can so designate the rude tracks which have been formed by the ox waggons. This may seem an insignificant sum for such an object in a country larger than France, but it bears a favourable comparison with the amount spent by the late Republic, which averaged during the last three years of its rule 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

The sum of 150*l.* 10*s.* had to be paid in part payment of a contract entered into by the late Government for the construction of a watercourse at Christiana which, on examination, proved to have been so far badly executed that, had it to be redone and carried out under proper supervision, it could be completed at one quarter of the expense contracted for, viz., 3,000*l.*

A large annual outlay is also entailed for rent of public offices.

Many items in the official return under head of public works did not properly belong to that department, but were so included because such matters were then under the charge of the officer who rendered the return, viz., the Surveyor-General.

Land.

In 1857 the Volksraad resolved that all burghers who had mi-

TRANSVAAL.

grated to the Transvaal in or prior to the year 1851 should be entitled to two farms.

One farm was called an "eigendom plaats" (freehold), on which 10*s.* a year was to be paid, and the other a "leening's plaats" (loan place), on which a yearly quit-rent not exceeding 3*l.* was to be paid.

Every male adult who had resided in the Transvaal for a period of not less than one year was entitled to a "burgher right" (right of citizenship) which, after being duly proved and registered, further entitled him to select a quit-rent farm. A farm consisted of 3,000 morgen, or 6,333 acres.

Having selected his farm, the burgher registered it with the landdrost of the district, giving a name to the ground, its position, and as far as possible, a description of the locality: he then obtained a copy of the registry a kind of temporary title deed.

When a number of farms had been selected in the same district, the Government appointed an Inspection Commission to inspect the farms, to decide on the different claims (the same ground was often claimed by more than one person, in such cases the oldest registration takes precedence), to define the boundaries of each farm; and to estimate the extent of each. The extent was arrived at by an inspector riding along the boundaries, or riding from the centre of the farm; one minute at a walk was considered equal to 100 yards. Sometimes the inspectors merely estimated the extent in cases where mountains or thick bush existed, when as a rule the area of the ground could not exactly be arrived at, even approximately.

The inspection reports were sent to Government. They were sometimes accompanied by rough sketches showing the boundaries and some of the natural features of the ground. A list of such inspected farms was then published in the Government Gazette, and in the absence of protest within three months, titled deeds signed by the President were issued.

By a resolution of the Volksraad passed on the 20th September 1871 (Art. 75) the right of registration or "anteekening" was stopped.

The following are translations of the articles of the "Grondwet" (Fundamental Law) bearing on this question.

Art. 7. "The lands and farms in this State which are still ungranted are declared to be State property with the exception of those already registered and not yet inspected. No place will be inspected for that purpose to a greater extent than 3,000 morgen; and no one shall be entitled to apply for or acquire ground before he shall have attained the age of 16 years."

Art. 194. "All farms and grounds of the inhabitants are guaranteed by the Government as fixed properties, the Government reserving the right of establishing (making) a public road for the use of the inhabitants over such farms when it becomes necessary. "Every owner of a farm shall pay annually a tax of "not less than 10s. and not more than 3*l.* towards the maintenance and protection of property."

8,140 farms have been transferred to private people; average size 3,000 morgen each = 24,420,000 morgen. The total area of the Province is, roughly speaking, 120,000 square miles; but it is impossible to make even an approximate estimate of it, as none of its boundaries have been surveyed.

But supposing this to be correct, it would appear that a large amount of land is still in the hands of Government. Such however is not the case, save in the unhealthy parts, or the tsetse fly country. Nearly all the inhabitable and adaptable land has been given out, so far as can be ascertained without a survey. I have no doubt however, that after the Province shall have been properly surveyed, that a considerable amount of available land to Government will be shown to exist. The necessity for a survey is very urgent.

Gaols and Prisoners.

In the absence of any statistics for previous years it is impossible to give any comparative statement on this matter.

The total number of persons committed during the year was 739, of this number 422 were incarcerated for felonies and serious offences and the remainder for minor offences, safe custody, or detention.

It is impossible to describe the nature or amount of crime, as no returns are available for the purpose. Of those convicted during the year, 23 were previously sentenced once, 5 a second time, and 1 a third time. The daily average number in prison was 78: the daily average on the sick list five; and one died in prison.

There were only six out of the 13 magistracies in the Province which had buildings worthy of the name "gaol," and even these—with the exception of Pretoria and Potchefstroom—are far from being what they should be. One of the first acts of Sir Theophilus Shepstone after annexation was to improve the Pretoria gaol. The others are merely "lock-ups" of the most insecure and wretched description. In consequence of this a large per-centage of prisoners escaped and are even now at large.

Under the late Government the Pretoria gaol was to a limited extent made available for the reception and detention of convicts: but it was even then utterly inadequate to meet the demand for space required of it. Whites, blacks, paupers, lunatics, and sick were confined together in a minimum of cubic space.

This gaol is now much improved both as to cleanliness and efficient administration.

Crime.

It has been found impossible to collect any reliable statistics or information regarding crime for the year 1878.

Judging, however, from the criminal work entailed upon the magistrates and law courts, and taking into consideration the increased population, there is reason to believe that crime was

TRANSVAAL. not above the average of former years, nor generally of a worse character.

Immigration.

No immigration scheme or office exists. Until the country be thoroughly settled down and the Government has by means of surveys ascertained what land belongs to it, it would not be practicable to promote a system of immigration such as exists in other Colonies. The Transvaal being a new Colony and having a good climate has induced perhaps more immigration than might be expected under ordinary circumstances. If the proposed railway to Delagoa Bay can be carried out, an immigration scheme will be possible and feasible.

At present the great expense of transport from the sea coast renders any such scheme impossible. It is to immigration that we must look for any true progress, for the present white population is insignificant in numbers to the extent of the country.

Militia, Police, &c.

1. No militia was embodied.
2. The police establishment consisted of one European and about four natives to each magistracy, who were available only for local purposes.
3. The local volunteers at the close of 1878 consisted of four corps, numbering 160 of all ranks.
4. In addition to the local police a force of 100 Zulus was raised in Natal for permanent constabulary service in the Transvaal, but it was found necessary to disband them before they could be utilised for ordinary constabulary purposes.

Botanical Gardens.

A small plot of ground was set apart by the late Government in this town, but nothing further was done towards establishing a Botanical Garden. Subsequent examination proved the soil to be gravel and the substrata ironstone. So the place was abandoned as not being suitable for the purpose.

The present gardens were inaugurated by Sir Theophilus Shepstone in 1877. The land so set apart is in area about 120 acres, the soil of which is very suitable for the purpose. A wall has been erected round it, and houses built for the curator and his assistants.

The site is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was intended. Situated about two miles from town, at a high elevation, it commands a good view of the city and surrounding country, and when, as it is intended, an avenue of trees shall have been planted along the whole route, it cannot fail to become a resort for the inhabitants.

A new curator was appointed in 1878, who has shown zeal and intelligence in executing the primary and tedious work of

"educating" the ground. A good drainage and irrigation scheme has been established, a cordon of young trees planted round the enclosure, and along the lines of the future paths; and beds laid down for the rearing of young plants.

Plants and trees of an economic and ornamental value are being propagated for distribution.

Coins, &c.

The currency is English silver and gold. About 900 Transvaal sovereigns were in circulation at the time of annexation, but they are all now in private hands and kept as "curious coins." These sovereigns were struck off in 1874 by order of the late President, Mr. Burgers.

The standard bank of British South Africa and Cape Commercial Bank have each several branches in the Transvaal, and are banks of issue.

It has been found impossible to obtain locally the average circulation of notes in 1878 because there is no banking law to enforce publication of such returns. These notes are redeemable in gold and silver.

Notes varying in value from 20*l.* down to 6*d.*, called blue-backs, were issued by the late Republican Government, but they were greatly depreciated in value.

The only silver coins current are 2*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.*, 1*s.*, 6*d.*, and a few 3*d.* and 4*d.* pieces.

Considerable inconvenience and hardship has resulted from the want of coins of lower denomination, particularly to people of limited incomes.

General Remarks.

The year 1878 cannot be remarked upon as a favourable one for the Province. Agitation within, and aggressive native demonstrations, both in and beyond its borders, combined to prevent and hinder the Government to a considerable extent, and precluded that fostering care being given to those useful and progressive measures which the interests of a struggling community so imperatively demand.

The attention of the Government to a great extent was naturally absorbed by such disquieting influences, and thus in the year under report its endeavours to bring about a better state of affairs were well nigh frustrated.

The uncertainty that prevailed as to existing law, and the inability of the Government—through want of local power—to enforce it, or to compel the payment of taxes, by either white or black subjects, rendered the task of the Government a most complicated one. There was no police force, and owing to the unhappy agitation that then existed, that moral ascendancy—which a well established Government can always depend upon—was wanting.

The white people were divided into two divisions, viz., pastoral and commercial, each one being different in sympathies and pur-

TRANSVAAL.

suits from the other. The former lived a patriarchal life at their homesteads surrounded by their flocks and herds, as a rule caring little about politics or passing events in the outside world, the latter dwelt in the town or the hamlet where their business was, and being invariably people who had come from other and more bustling places, they entered into the topics of the day.

And even amongst the former section there existed a wide divergence of opinion regarding the annexation of the country by Her Majesty. Some were violently opposed to it, others as strongly in favour of it, whilst the majority cared but little either one way or the other, so long as they were left in the quiet possession of their lands, and could follow their pastoral or agricultural pursuits in peace. This naturally they could, and did expect under the strong rule of Great Britain. Consequently had they been left to exercise their own judgment, and to follow the bent of their feelings, there would have been few voices raised against the act of annexation.

But here, as elsewhere, the leaven of agitation has caused feelings to rise which would otherwise have remained quiescent. The people, simple and trusting, were brought to view matters through the glass of misrepresentation, the flaws of which they were unable to discern. Unfortunately the Government had to contend against this almost single-handed. Many of those who had taken the most active part in crying out for British rule, when they had gained their object, thought that nothing more was to be expected of them. In the out districts specially was this noticeable, where many men feared to be outspoken, or to combat with misrepresentation, lest such action might estrange from them clients or customers. On the other hand the Boer who was well inclined to the change simply held his peace in order to avoid annoyance.

After being the Administrator for over four years of this Province and of the conterminous Colony of Griqualand West, it is my firm conviction that Sir Theophilus Shepstone was justified in his belief that at the time when he annexed the country the majority of the people were in favour of his act. And in saying this I take no cognizance of the enormously preponderating numbers of the native inhabitants, who certainly had a right to be considered.

Thus it was that the Government had no alternative but to watch and wait until peace and good order could be restored, and native aggression suppressed, in order that its hands should be strengthened and its position made sure, before embarking on the much needed reforms.

Unfortunately the close of the year saw the country still combating with its many difficulties; and embarrassments on all sides ushered in the ensuing year.

In such circumstances it is impossible to report the year a satisfactory one, or represent it as being one of progress and prosperity. But on the other hand it may certainly be said that things would have been much worse, if not disastrous, had not a strong hand

been held out to check misrule and native aggression. Few knew how great and imminent were these dangers at the time. But now, with the events of 1879 fresh on our memories, none but a naturally perverse observer could deny that they did then exist.

Under so many adverse conditions the trade of the country fluctuated considerably. In spite of the large amount of business brought about by the war, it cannot be said to have prospered to any great extent, or shown such real and beneficial results as there has been since the termination of hostilities. The eager and large demand for field stores, and the consequent quick returns, obscured altogether that most desirable of all objects in trade, viz., the interchange of merchandise for local produce, consequently little or no produce was exported, agriculture and local industries thus equally suffered, attention being given only to those productions likely to yield a ready and immediate return in money.

The want of labour was sadly felt throughout the country, and was a great impediment both to agricultural progress and industrial enterprise. This scarcity was due entirely to the influence exercised by the rebel chief Sikukuni within the territory, and the Zulus on the borders. By some mysterious means the inland Chiefs who formerly supplied the labour market were imbued with the idea that the English would be defeated and driven out of the country. With this view they kept their people at home, watching and waiting for the course of events. It was only after serious difficulty that enough natives could be obtained for maintaining the Government transport during active operations.

In view of all these difficulties it is certainly a matter of satisfaction to observe that the revenue even reached the amount it did; more especially when one considers that such revenue was, more or less, voluntarily rendered in the absence of any resident force to compel, or even to collect payment.

It will be observed in reading these reports and returns, that there is a great lack of statistics in almost all matters.

In explanation of this, I must state that the system of registration, or keeping proper records, appears to have been either unknown or sadly neglected under the late Government, save in the Registrar of Deeds office. It was not possible for the present Government to rectify this.

The necessary changes to bring departments into a proper working order, and to initiate measures of a progressive nature cannot be suddenly brought about. It would be idle to hope that such matters can be remedied or rectified in a year, or even a term of years. The course of improvement, if it is to be sure, must, to a certain extent, be slow.

I append copies of the several proclamations and notice issued by Sir Theophilus Shepstone at the date of the annexation, which will be of interest in connexion with the first Blue Book report on the affairs of the Province.

TRANSVAAL.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Sir THEOPHILUS SHEPSTONE, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Her Majesty's Special Commissioner for certain purposes in South Africa.

WHEREAS at a meeting held on the sixteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, at the Sand River, between Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioners, Major Hogge and C. M. Owen, Esquire, on the one part, and a deputation from the emigrant farmers then residing north of the Vaal River, at the head of which was Commandant-General A. W. J. Pretorius, on the other part, the said Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioners did "guarantee in the fullest manner "on the part of the British Government to the emigrant "farmers north of the Vaal River the right to manage their "own affairs, and to govern themselves according to their own "laws, without any interference on the part of the British "Government."

And whereas the evident objects and inciting motives of the Assistant Commissioners in granting such guarantee or permission to persons who were Her Majesty's subjects were "to promote "peace, free trade, and friendly intercourse" with and among the inhabitants of the Transvaal, in the hope and belief that the territory which a few years afterwards, namely, in February 1858, became known by the style and title of "The South African Republic," would become a flourishing and self sustaining state, a source of strength and security to neighbouring European communities, and a point from which Christianity and Civilisation might rapidly spread towards Central Africa.

And whereas the hopes and expectations upon which this mutual compact was reasonably and honourably founded have been disappointed, and the circumstances as set forth more at length in my address to the people of to-day's date, hereunto attached, show that increasing weakness in the state itself on the one side, and more than corresponding growth of real strength and confidence among the native tribes on the other, have produced their natural and inevitable consequences, as will more fully appear from a brief allusion to the facts that after more or less of irritating contact with aboriginal tribes to the north, there commenced about the year 1867 gradual abandonment to the natives in that direction of territory settled by burghers of this State in well built towns and villages, and on granted farms; that this was succeeded by the extinction of all effective rule over extensive tracts of country included within the boundaries of the state, and, as a consequence, by the practical independence, which still continues, of large native tribes residing therein, who had until then considered themselves subjects.

That some few farmers, unwilling to forfeit homes which they had created for their families, and to which they held grants from

the Government of the Transvaal, which grants had, however, ceased, and still fail to protect them in their occupation, made terms with the native Chiefs, and now occupy their farms on condition of periodical payments to those Chiefs, notwithstanding the acknowledgment which such payments involve. TRANSVAAL.

That this decay of power and ebb of authority in the north is being followed by similar processes in the south under yet more dangerous circumstances; people of this State residing in that direction have been compelled within the last three months, at the bidding of native Chiefs and at a moment's notice, to leave their farms and homes, their standing crops, some of which were ready for reaping, and other property, all to be taken possession of by natives, but that the Government is more powerless than ever to vindicate its assumed rights, or to resist the declension that is threatening its existence. That all confidence in its stability once felt by surrounding and distant European communities has been withdrawn. That commerce is well nigh destroyed. That the country is in a state of bankruptcy. That the white inhabitants, discontented with their condition, are divided into factions. That the Government has fallen into helpless paralysis from causes which it has been and is unable to control or counteract. And that the prospect of the election of a new President, so far from allaying the general anxiety, or from inspiring hope in the future, is looked forward to by all parties as most likely to result in civil war, with its attendant anarchy and bloodshed.

That the condition above described affords strong temptation to neighbouring native powers, who are known to be anxious and ready to do so, to make attacks and inroads upon the State, which from its weakness it cannot repel, and from which it has hitherto been saved by the restraining influence of the British Government, exercised from Natal by Her Majesty's representative in that Colony, in the hope, yet unfulfilled, that a friendly understanding might be arrived at between the Government of the Transvaal and the complaining native Chiefs;

That the Sikukuni war, which would have produced but little effect upon a healthy constitution, has not only proved suddenly fatal to the resources and reputation of the Republic, but has shown itself to be a culminating point in the history of South Africa, in that a Makatee or Basutu tribe, unwarlike, and of no account in Zulu estimation, successfully withstood the strength of the State, and disclosed for the first time to the native powers outside the Republic, from the Zambesi to the Cape, the great change that had taken place in the relative strength of the white and the black races; that this disclosure at once shook the prestige of the white man in South Africa, and placed every European community in peril, that this common danger has caused universal anxiety, has given to all concerned the right to investigate its causes, and to protect themselves from its consequences, and has imposed the duty upon those who have the power to shield enfeebled civilisation from the encroachments of barbarism and inhumanity.

TRANSVAAL.

And whereas the inherent weakness of this Government and State from causes above alluded to, and briefly set forth, and the fact that the past policy of the Republic has not only failed to conciliate the friendship and goodwill, but has forfeited the respect of the overwhelming native populations within and beyond its boundaries, which together probably exceed one and a half millions, render it certain that the Transvaal will be the first to suffer from the consequences of a pressure that has already reduced its political life to so feeble a condition.

And whereas the ravaging of an adjoining friendly State by warlike savage tribes cannot for a moment be contemplated by Her Majesty's Government without the most earnest and painful solicitude, both on account of the miseries which such an event must inflict upon the inhabitants of the Transvaal, and because of the peril and insecurity to which it would expose Her Majesty's possessions and subjects in South Africa, and seeing that the circumstances of the case have, from the inherent weakness of the country already touched upon, become so grave, that neither this country nor the British Colonies in South Africa can be saved from the most calamitous circumstances except by the extension over this State of Her Majesty's authority and protection, by means of which alone oneness of purpose and action can be secured, and a fair prospect of peace and prosperity in the future be established.

And whereas I have been satisfied by numerous addresses, memorials, and letters which I have received, and by the abundant assurances which personal intercourse has given me, that a large proportion of the inhabitants of the Transvaal see in a clearer and stronger light than I am able to describe them, the urgency and imminence of the circumstances by which they are surrounded, the ruined condition of the country, and the absence within it of any element capable of rescuing it from its depressed and afflicted state, and therefore earnestly desire the establishment within and over it of Her Majesty's authority and rule; and whereas the Government has been unable to point out or devise any means by which the country can save itself, and, as a consequence, relieve the other white communities of South Africa from the danger of the dire events certain speedily to result from the circumstances by which it is surrounded, and can entertain no reasonable hope that it possesses, or is likely under its present form of government to possess, the means to raise itself to a safe and prosperous condition.

And whereas the emergency seems to me to be such as to render it necessary in order to secure the peace and safety of the Transvaal territory, as well as the peace and safety of Her Majesty's Colonies, and of Her Majesty's subjects elsewhere, that the said Transvaal territory should provisionally, and pending the announcement of Her Majesty's pleasure, be administered in Her Majesty's name and on Her behalf.

Now, therefore, I do, in virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by Her Majesty's Royal Commission, dated at

Balmoral the 5th day of October 1876, and published herewith, and in accordance with instructions conveyed to me thereby and otherwise, proclaim and make known that from and after the publication hereof the territory heretofore known as the South African Republic, as now meared and bounded, subject, however, to such local modifications as may hereafter appear necessary, and as may be approved of by Her Majesty, shall be, and shall be taken to be, British territory, and I hereby call upon and require the inhabitants of the Transvaal, of every class and degree, and all Her Majesty's subjects in South Africa to take notice of this my proclamation, and to guide themselves accordingly. TRANSVAAL.

And I hereby further proclaim and declare that I shall hold responsible all such persons who in the Transvaal shall venture opposition, armed or otherwise, to Her Majesty's authority hereby proclaimed, or who shall by seditious and inflammatory language or exhortations, or otherwise incite or encourage others to offer such opposition, or who shall injure, harass, disturb, or molest others because they may not think with them on political matters, and I do warn all such that upon conviction of any of the above offences they will be liable to the severe penalties which the law in such cases ordains; and I hereby appeal to and call upon the orderly, right thinking, and peace loving people of the Transvaal to be aiding and supporting Her Majesty's authority.

And I proclaim further, that all legal courts of justice now in existence for the trial of criminal or civil cases or questions are hereby continued and kept in full force and effect, and that all decrees, judgments, and sentences, rules and orders, lawfully made or issued, or to be made and issued by such courts, shall be as good and valid as if this proclamation had not been published; all civil obligations, all suits and actions, civil, penal, criminal, or mixed, and all criminal acts here committed which may have been incurred, commenced, done, or committed before the publication of this proclamation, but which are not fully tried and determined, may be tried and determined by any such lawful courts, or by such others as it may be found hereafter necessary to establish for that purpose.

And I further proclaim and make known that the Transvaal will remain a separate Government, with its own laws and legislature, and that it is the wish of Her most Gracious Majesty that it shall enjoy the fullest legislative privileges compatible with the circumstances of the country and the intelligence of its people. That arrangements will be made by which the Dutch language will practically be as much the official language as the English. All laws, proclamations, and Government notices will be published in the Dutch language. In the Legislative Assembly members may, as they do now, use either language; and in the courts of law the same may be done at the option of suitors to a cause. The laws now in force in the State will be retained until altered by competent legislative authority.

Equal justice is guaranteed to the persons and property of both white and coloured; but the adoption of this principle does not

TRANSVAAL.

and should not involve the granting of equal civil rights, such as the exercise of the right of voting by savages, or their becoming members of a legislative body, or their being entitled to other civil privileges which are incompatible with their uncivilised condition.

The native tribes living within the jurisdiction and under the protection of the Government, must be taught due obedience to the paramount authority and be made to contribute their fair share towards the support of the State that protects them.

All private *bonâ fide* rights to property, guaranteed by the existing laws of the country, and sanctioned by them, will be respected.

All officers now serving the Government, and who may be able and willing to serve under the altered circumstances of the country, shall be entitled to retain their positions, and such rights as their positions now give them.

All *bonâ fide* concessions and contracts with Governments, Companies, or individuals, by which the State is now bound, will be honourably maintained and respected, and the payment of the debts of the State must be provided for.

The appointments or licenses in virtue of which attorneys, land surveyors, and others, are entitled to practise their callings, shall be respected in accordance with the terms and conditions of such appointments or licenses.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Given under my hand and seal at Pretoria, in the South African Republic, this twelfth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

T. SHEPSTONE,
Her Majesty's Special Commissioner.

By command of his Excellency,
M. OSBORN,
Secretary.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Sir THEOPHILUS SHEPSTONE, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Her Majesty's Special Commissioner for certain purposes in South Africa, and Administrator of the Government of the Transvaal.

WHEREAS I have in virtue of the powers conferred upon me by Her Majesty's Royal Commission, dated at Balmoral, the 5th day of October 1876, declared by proclamation under my hand bearing this day's date, that from and after the date thereof the Transvaal territory heretofore known as the South African Republic shall be and shall be taken to be British territory, and whereas Her Majesty's Royal Commission aforesaid constitutes and appoints me upon the proclamation by me of any territories as British territory under such Commission, to be and become the Administrator

thereof provisionally and until Her Majesty's pleasure shall be more fully known. TRANSVAAL.

Now, therefore, in virtue of the powers and appointment conferred upon me as aforesaid, I do hereby proclaim and make known that I have this day assumed the administration of the Government of the Transvaal as described in my said proclamation of this day's date, and do hereby require, charge, and command all officers, and all Her Majesty's subjects and other inhabitants within the territory of the Transvaal aforesaid to obey me accordingly as they shall answer the contrary at their peril.

And further, I do hereby request and direct all officers, landdrosts, field cornets, and others occupying official positions to notify to me in writing by first post or opportunity after publication of this proclamation, their willingness or otherwise to continue, under the altered form of Government, to occupy the positions they now hold.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Given under my hand and seal at Pretoria, Transvaal, this 12th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

(Signed) T. SHEPSTONE,
Her Majesty's Special Commissioner, and
Administrator of the Government.

By command of His Excellency,
(Signed) M. OSBORN,
Secretary.

TO THE BURGHERS OF THE TRANSVAAL:—

MY FRIENDS:—I have said above what it was my duty to say as Her Majesty's Special Commissioner, I now wish to address a few words to you as a friend.

Some of you were among the old pioneers, many of whom I knew as acquaintances, and not a few as friends. Others of you are children of those who belonged to that adventurous band, but who have passed away.

Practically I am an Africander, as you are proud to call yourselves. I can speak in your language, and have spoken to hundreds of you on the subject of my mission. I therefore know the feelings of those who are against it as well as of those who are for it.

To the former of these two classes I have to say, that as sensible and thinking people, it is your duty as well as mine to repress unavailing sentiment, and to look facts fully in the face; this you are called upon to do by your own interests, by those of your children and of your country.

When in 1852 it was agreed that you should be allowed to rule yourselves without interference by the British Government, those who represented you, as well as Her Majesty's Assistant Special Commissioners, believed and hoped that you would grow into a powerful and self-sustaining State, prove a blessing and a source

TRANSVAAL.

of strength to your neighbours, and become a strong centre of Christianity and civilization. If both sides had not entertained such hope and belief there was no right on the one side to ask, nor on the other to grant the independence asked for.

It is true that these sentiments are but slightly alluded to in the words of the agreement, but as lately it was publicly said of another document, so it may be said of this, that he who does not read between the lines sees but half the meaning. What I have above described are the unspoken and unwritten terms on which alone such an agreement could have been honourably entered into by either side, and I as well as you must assume them to have been the basis of that agreement, or we do dishonour to our representatives on that occasion.

Now have these terms, these hopes been fulfilled? Have you grown stronger during the last 12 years in proportion as those by whom you are surrounded have grown stronger? Have you been able to maintain your own boundaries, to keep possession of your towns, villages, and farm-houses built by your own hands? The answer to all these questions is in the negative, very strongly in the negative.

Has not the war with Sikukuni, whom you all consider to be but an insignificant enemy, and which is not yet settled as was supposed, dealt a fatal blow to the prestige of the Republic, to its financial condition, to its Government, and to the credit of the country, and has it not caused disaster and ruin to many families which your Government found itself powerless to remedy? You all know as well as I do that it has. You all know too, that unless your Government and your State are strong enough to inspire confidence among neighbouring and distant white communities, both must come to nothing from inherent weakness.

I do not wish to take up every point in the Sand River agreement, and examine whether this or that article has been broken; my object, my friends, is not to find fault with you, but to show you your true position. For years past you have been going backwards instead of forwards, until at length you have reached a condition of weakness that has not only destroyed your prestige in the eyes of the natives, but has seriously weakened that of all the white communities of South Africa and loss of prestige means loss of security.

Some have told me that you believe yourselves strong enough to encounter all possible attacks, to maintain the independence of the State, and to pay its debts; few of the thinking men of the country, however, hold this opinion, and the great majority see that it is impossible, however strongly they or I might wish it were otherwise.

What is your strength? You have 8,000 white men all told capable of bearing arms, of these 1,000 live in towns or villages, 350 are a fluctuating population of gold diggers, and the remaining 6,650 are farmers, scattered widely over a surface of country which in Europe would maintain 25 millions of people. Upon these 6,650 farmers is laid the task of supporting the State by the

produce of their farms, and upon them also rests the military duty of defending the country or fighting for its rights. You are surrounded inside and outside your boundaries by at least one and a half millions of natives, none of whom have been made firm friends by your past intercourse with them, and of these one of the weakest has dealt you a deadly blow. It follows, therefore, that you can neither sow nor reap except by the tacit permission of the native population, and they have lost the respect for you which they had for the pioneers.

The products of the ground are the true source of all wealth to every State; those who get that wealth out of the ground by their labour, must be protected in their avocations, or the State must perish; and it is only in the most imminent danger from actual invasion that they should be called upon to defend their homes. Let the bee be left to make its honey and support not itself only but the State.

Such then is your condition; your weakness invites attack upon yourselves, which you cannot repel, and therefore has become a cause of serious menace to Her Majesty's possessions in South Africa. Your house, which adjoins ours, and is built of combustible materials, as part of ours is also built of, is on fire. We wish to extinguish that fire while it is yet smouldering, because we know that you cannot; that wish and the act arising out of it are dictated by friendship towards you, and solicitude for your welfare, as well as demanded by imperative considerations of self preservation.

If the hopes and beliefs which alone could have justified the Sand River agreement had been fulfilled, if your State had grown stronger instead of weaker, if your influence for good over the natives had extended and increased instead of becoming year by year more contracted, Her Majesty's Government would gladly have avoided the task of interference, nor would it interfere now were it not for the positive danger to which your condition exposes Her Majesty's subjects and possessions in South Africa. Nor am I trying to impress upon you this description of the condition of your country supported by my own observation only, the remarks made by your President to the Volksraad on the 16th February and the 3rd and 5th March last, under an evidently deep sense of responsibility more than support what I have said, and what I had already myself been convinced of. Here are a few of them :—

"We should delude ourselves by entertaining the hope that matters would mend by and by. It would be only self-deceit. I tell you openly matters are as bad as they ever can be; they cannot be worse. These are bitter truths, and people may perhaps turn their back on me. But then I shall have the consolation of having done my duty."

* * * * * * *

"It is said here, this or that man must be released from taxes, because the Kafirs have driven them off their farms and occupy the latter. By this you proclaim to the world that the strongest man is master here, that the right of the strongest obtains here.

TRANSVAAL. [Mr. Maré: This is not true.] Then it is not true what the honourable member Mr. Breytenbach has told us about the state of the Lydenburg district; then it is not true either what another member has said about the farms in Saltpansberg, which are occupied by Kafirs. Neither is it true then what I saw with my own eyes at Lydenburg, where the burghers had been driven off their farms by the Kafirs, and where Johannes was ploughing and sowing on the land of a burgher. These are facts, and they show that the strongest man is the master here. The fourth point which we have to take into account affects our relations with our English neighbours. It is asked, what have they got to do with our position? I tell you, as much as we have to do with that of our Kafir neighbours. As little as we can allow barbarities among the Kafirs on our borders, as little can they allow that in a state on their borders anarchy and rebellion should prevail."

* * * * * * *

"Do you know what has recently happened in Turkey? Because no civilised Government was carried on there the great Powers interfered and said, thus far and no farther. And if this is done to an Empire, will a little Republic be excused when it misbehaves? Complain to other powers and seek justice there? Yes, thank God! justice is still to be found, even for the most insignificant; but it is precisely this justice which will convict us. If we want justice we must be in a position to ask it with unsullied hands."

* * * * * * *

"Whence has arisen that urgency to make an appeal for interference elsewhere? Has that appeal been made only by enemies of the State? Oh no, gentlemen, it has arisen from real grievances. Our people have degenerated from their former position, they have becomes demoralized, they are not what they ought to be."

* * * * * *

"To-day a bill for 1,100*l.* was laid before me for signature, but I would sooner have cut off my right hand than sign that paper, for I have not the slightest ground to expect that when that bill becomes due there will be a penny to pay it with."

* * * * * *

"The principal thing which had brought them to their present position was that to which they would not give attention; it was not this or that thing which impeded their way, but they themselves stopped the way, and if they asked him what prevented the people from remaining independent, he answered that the Republic was itself the obstruction, owing to the inherent incapacity and weakness of the people. But whence this weakness? Was it because they were deformed? because they were worse than other people? because they were too few and insignificant to occupy the country? Those arguments did not weigh with him, they were not true, he did not consider them of any importance. The people were as good as any other people, but they were completelv demoralized,

they had lost faith in God, reliance upon themselves, or trust in each other, hence he believed they were inherently weak."

* * * * * *

"He did not believe that a new constitution would save them, for as little as the old constitution had brought them to ruin so little would a new constitution bring them salvation."

* * * * * *

"The great powers with all their greatness all their thousands of soldiers, would fall as quickly as this State had fallen, and even more quickly, if their citizens were to do what the citizens of this State had done; if the citizens of England had behaved towards the Crown as the burghers of this State had behaved to their Government, England would never have stood as long as she had, not even as long as this State had stood. This State owed obligations to other countries; they knew that the fire which had nearly consumed this State would, if felt by them, very soon consume them also."

* * * * * *

"In several of the cities of Holland there were people who had subscribed for only one debenture, because they thought men of their own blood were living in South Africa. What was the consequence? The interest up to July last had been paid; in January of this year 2,250*l.* was due for interest, and there was not a penny to meet it."

* * * * * * *

"To take up arms and fight was nonsense; to draw the sword would be to draw the sword against God, for it was God's judgment that the State was in the condition it was to-day, and it was their duty to inquire whether they should immerse in blood the thousands of innocent inhabitants of this country, and if so, what for? For an idea, something they had in their heads, but not in their hearts; for an independence which is not prized? Let them make the best of the situation, and get the best terms they possibly could; let them agree to join their hands to those of their brethren on the South, and then from the Cape to the Zambesi there would be one great people. Yes, there was something grand in that, grander even than their idea of a Republic; something which ministered to their national feeling, and would this be so miserable? Yes, this would be miserable for those who would not be under the law, for the rebel and the revolutionist, but welfare and prosperity for the men of law and order."

* * * * * * *

"They must not underrate their real and many difficulties. He could point to the south-western border, the Zulu, the Gold Fields, and other questions, and show them that it was their duty to come to an arrangement with the British Government, and to do so in a bold and manly manner. An hon. member on Saturday last had spoken with fervent patriotism, but he had failed to appreciate the reference, because it amounted to this, that they must shut their eyes to everything so as to keep their independence."

TRANSVAAL. These are strong words from the head of the State not used to support my views or my mission, although they do support both in a remarkable manner, and being the public and official utterances of the President to the Volksraad, I am entitled to use them in addressing you.

Certain evil disposed persons have taken great pains to spread false reports of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, with the object of provoking resistance to its authority. Among other things it has been industriously circulated that it is intended to make soldiers of your sons, and, strange to say, this has been extensively believed. I declare this and many other statements made with a like object which have come to my knowledge to be absolutely false and malicious, and that those who circulate them are deserving of severe punishment.

Your church establishments will be maintained on their present footing, the obligations which the State has entered into with regard to them will be observed, the necessary measures must be taken to provide Christian education for your children, under such system as may be approved by you. Your property will be protected, and all the change you will feel will be in the direction of increased security and new-born prosperity.

As soon as it may be convenient some of Her Majesty's troops will enter this country. They will not come to coerce you, but to show those by whom you are surrounded that with the change in the form of ruling the country has also come a great and necessary accession of strength to enable Her Majesty's Government to discharge the obligations which it has undertaken.

It remains only for me to beg of you to consider and weigh what I have said calmly and without undue prejudice. Let not mere feeling or sentiment prevail over your judgment; accept what Her Majesty's Government intends shall be, and what you will soon find from experience is, a blessing not only to you and to your children, but to the whole of South Africa through you; and believe that I speak these words to you as a friend from my heart.

(Signed) T. SHEPSTONE,
Her Majesty's Special Commissioner.

Pretoria, 12th April 1877.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Sir THEOPHILUS SHEPSTONE, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St George, Her Majesty's Special Commissioner for certain purposes in South Africa, and Administrator of the Government of the Transvaal.

WHEREAS it has been represented to me from different parts of the country that the pressing demands lately made upon the people for the payment of the war levy, and the threats to take

their property in satisfaction thereof, have caused much distress and uneasiness, and it is also urged that the scarcity of money in the country renders it impossible that such an impost can be readily paid, and whereas it is especially gratifying to me that my first administrative act should be one of relief to the burghers of the Transvaal.

Now, therefore, taking these grievances and difficulties into consideration, and being anxious to relieve as far as is in my power the monetary pressure upon the people in these scarce times, and to prevent hardship and distress, and being convinced that a way can be found to pay the debts of the country by easier means than this levy furnishes, and without placing too heavy a burden upon its people at one time, and so destroying its means of prosperity :

I do hereby proclaim and make known that I have thought it best to suspend, and hereby do suspend, the operation of the Act or Law by which this levy was imposed, until, with the assistance of the people, some other more acceptable plan can be devised, if such be desired ; and in order to do equal justice in the meantime to those who have already paid this levy I have thought it but right to direct that the payment made by them shall be looked upon and treated as an advance on account of future ordinary taxes.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Given under my hand and seal at Pretoria, Transvaal, this twelfth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

(Signed) T. SHEPSTONE,
Her Majesty's Special Commissioner, and
Administrator of the Government.

By command of His Excellency,
(Signed) M. OSBORN,
Secretary.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

PAPERS

RELATING TO

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS FOR 1878 AND 1879.

(*In continuation of* [C.–2598.] *of* 1880.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1880.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1880.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No. in Series.	COLONY.	Page.
1	NEWFOUNDLAND - - - - -	3
2	FALKLANDS - - - - - -	5
3	VICTORIA - - - - - -	3
4	TASMANIA - - - - - -	93
5	BRITISH HONDURAS - - - - -	135
6	TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS - - -	143
7	BRITISH GUIANA - - - - -	149
8	BAHAMAS, WITH ANNEXURES FROM DR. LANKESTER	163
9	ST. VINCENT - - - - - -	188
10	TOBAGO - - - - - -	199
11	ST. LUCIA - - - - - -	204
12	ANTIGUA - - - - - -	215
13	ST. KITTS - - - - - -	230
14	NEVIS - - - - - -	237
15	VIRGIN ISLANDS - - - - -	242
16	BERMUDA - - - - - -	244
17	CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - - - -	245
18	ST. HELENA - - - - - -	279
19	MALTA - - - - - -	282
20	HELIGOLAND - - - - - -	290
21	LABUAN - - - - - -	290

No. 1.

Governor Sir J. H. GLOVER, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

SIR, Government House, December 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Newfoundland for the year 1878, together with a short report on the same, which has been submitted to me by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary of this Colony.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) JOHN H. GLOVER.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT of the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY of NEWFOUNDLAND on the Blue Book for 1878.

Colonial Secretary's Office, St. John's, Newfoundland,
November 24, 1879.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1878.

Imports and Exports.

It will be observed on reference to the Blue Book that the value of the year's Imports was $6,868,723, showing a decline as compared with that of the Imports of the previous year of $494,911. This was mainly attributable to the falling off in the value, rather than in the quantity of imported goods, and especially those of British manufacture. The Exports were also below those of 1877 in value, being $5,630,891 against $6,841,582 in the last-named year.

Besides these, which are from official returns of Exports from Newfoundland proper, there are the Exports from Labrador, also comprised in the Newfoundland trade, which are moderately estimated at $963,916; this addition makes the value of the total Export $6,594,807.

Q 1897. Wt. 19396.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year, including a loan of $125,000, was $1,019,034, which was less by 11,608 than that of 1877. The expenditure (including debentures paid off, $100,000) was $1,148,573, being an actual excess of $77,768 upon the outlay of the previous year.

Trade.

The Cod fishery, which is the great staple of the trade of the Island, was below an average catch on the coast of Newfoundland proper, while at Labrador it was fully up to an ordinary return. The specific value of the fish was also lower than in 1877, which fact told against the amount of the Exports.

The Cod fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, which was extensively prosecuted in former times, has recently been revived under the stimulus of a tonnage bounty given in equal proportions to the vessels engaged, and to the crews employed in them; and the results of the year go to show that this will be found a profitable enterprise and will be more largely embarked in in future years. The decline in the inshore fishery will thus, it is hoped, be compensated for to a material extent, and the policy of the Legislature in extending encouragement to the prosecution of the bank fishery will be vindicated.

The Seal fishery shows but little difference from that of 1877 as to the number of seals taken, this having been 409,658 against 431,373 in 1877. There was, however, besides the lesser number in 1878, a considerable deficiency in weight, a large proportion of the catch consisting of immature seals.

In Copper ore there appears a diminished Export, the quantity shipped being 36,570 tons, while the Export in 1877 was 47,484 tons. This difference, however, does not arise from a decline in the capacity of the mining resources, but rather from the lack of inducement to work the mines while the markets were so unremunerative. It is believed that an advance in the price of Copper will give a marked impetus to the prosecution of this industry.

Education.

The new School System which was inaugurated in 1876 works advantageously and gives promise of further satisfactory results. The denominational principle is carried into effect, not merely to the extent of dividing Roman Catholics from Protestants, but also of separating the members of the Church of England and Wesleyans, of which two denominations the Protestant population is chiefly composed. Three competent inspectors are appointed to supervise the several branches of the system, and an additional pecuniary allowance has been given to the school teachers. The work of supervision is being very efficiently performed, and a rivalry which appears free from all spirit of antagonism is exercising an awakening and salutary influence.

Local Manufactures.

A Tobacco factory was established here three years ago, and its success has led to another enterprise in the same line. All local wants in the article of tobacco will be met by these establishments which so far are aided by a discriminating customs duty. A Boot and Shoe Factory which employs upwards of 150 persons of both sexes is also working profitably, and the attention of capitalists is gradually being drawn to the advantages of investing in local manufactures.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. D. SHEA,

Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Governor
Sir John H. Glover, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

FALKLANDS.

No. 2.

Governor CALLAGHAN, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the SECRETARY OF STATE for the Colonies.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
June 8, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1879, which has just been placed in my hands. The duplicate copy will be forwarded by the next opportunity.

2. I regret that I am compelled by illness, and by the pressure of duties which have to be attended to before I leave for England, to confine my report upon the subject to a few brief remarks on the most important points connected with it.

3. The revenue for last year, exclusive of the parliamentary grant, amounted to 5,022*l.*, being an increase of 1,184*l.* over the revenue for 1878, which only amounted to 3,838*l.* This increase arises from the measures passed in 1878, doubling the duties on spirits and wines, and imposing a duty on tobacco. The revenue derived from Customs last year amounted to 1,982*l.*, being only 18*l.* under the amount estimated. Although this year, owing to circumstances explained in another despatch, there will be a falling off in the amount yielded from Customs, there will still, I hope, be sufficient revenue to carry on the service of the Colony, even without a grant from Parliament, and I have every reason to anticipate that in the next and succeeding years the sum of 2,000*l.* will be fully realised from Customs' duties.

FALKLANDS.

4. The expenditure of 1879, viz., 6,583*l.*, shows a slight increase over that of 1878, which amounted to 6,364*l.* This increase is owing to the unusual expenditure incurred on account of the passages from England to the Colony of the new Colonial surgeons, the schoolmaster, and their families.

The estimated expenditure for the present year, viz., 5,511*l.*, shows a marked decrease, and while the establishments continue on their present footing the annual expenditure of the Colony is not likely to exceed that amount.

5. I may observe that the parliamentary grant voted for this Colony has for the last ten years amounted to 3,500*l.* a year; previous to that it was considerably more. This year is the first in the history of these Islands that no parliamentary grant has been required in aid of the local revenue, and I am happy to say that the Colony may for the future be regarded as self-supporting.

6. The debt of the Colony which, on my arrival in 1876, amounted to 4,500*l.*, has been entirely paid off.

7. The value of the imports in 1879 amounted to 38,940*l.*, as against 36,792*l.* in 1878.

8. The value of the exports in 1879 amounted to 71,340*l.*, being a very marked increase over the value of those in 1878, which only amounted to 51,055*l.*, as appears from the following table.

VALUE of the articles exported to the UNITED KINGDOM during 1878 and 1879.

Article.	Value.	
	1878.	1879.
	£	£
Bones, horns, &c. - - - -	8	10
Hides: ox, cow, calf, and horse - -	5,170	5,020
Junk, metal, and old iron - - -	106	90
Manufactured goods, re-exported - -	600	300
Oil, seal and penguin - - -	1,312	1,200
Seal skins - - - - -	1,213	1,400
Sheep skins - - - - -	2,040	1,940
Tallow - - - - -	4,874	5,940
Wool - - - -	35,732	55,440
Totals - - -	51,055	71,340

From the above it will be seen that there is a great increase in the value of the wool exported; this is mainly accounted for by the recent rise in the price of wool in the home market, which it is hoped will continue. It has done much to improve the prospects of the sheep farmers and of the Colony generally.

9. After a trial of nearly 18 months it is gratifying to be able to report that the civil police force which replaced the detachment of Royal Marines last year—by the withdrawal of which a very considerable saving to Imperial and Colonial funds has been effected—has turned out satisfactorily, and has been found amply sufficient for preserving law and order in the Colony.

10. Great hopes are now entertained that steam communication will shortly be established between this Colony and the outer world. Until it is, as I have observed in my former reports in forwarding the annual Blue Books, no great or permanent improvement can be looked for in the prospects of these Islands, the prosperity of which has been seriously retarded by a monopoly, which has prevailed here for many years past.

The only effectual means of putting an end to this would be by the introduction of steam communication, and I feel assured that Her Majesty's Government will not refuse to grant the comparatively small subsidy in addition to the amount contributed by the Colony, which would be required for the establishment of a regular steam service between this and the United Kingdom.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) F. F. CALLAGHAN.
The Secretary of State.
&c. &c.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 3.

Governor the MARQUIS OF NORMANBY to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Melbourne,
October 28, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Digest of the Statistics for the year 1878, which has been carefully compiled by the Government Statist, for insertion in the Annual Parliamentary Blue Book, showing the condition and progress of the British Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NORMANBY.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

DIGEST of the STATISTICS of VICTORIA, 1878, by HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

First settlement of Victoria.

1. Victoria is a Colony which owes its existence entirely to the enterprise of private individuals unconnected with any company, and unassisted by Government. Two attempts to found a convict settlement at or near its principal port had failed, and the territory had in both cases been abandoned as unfit for the residence of civilized man, when some adventurers from the adjoining Island of Tasmania crossed Bass's Straits and established themselves successfully at the sites of the present towns of Portland and Melbourne. Others followed, and soon began to push their way into the interior. These were met by the exploring party of Sir Thomas Mitchell, who, entering from New South Wales on the north, and traversing a considerable portion of the as yet unknown territory, was so struck with its wondrous capabilities that he named it *Australia Felix*, a title the aptness of which a subsequent knowledge of the geniality of its climate, the excellence of its soil, and the then unsuspected richness of its mineral treasures has proved to be fully justified.

Area and population.

2. The territory of Victoria occupies no more than a thirty-fourth part of the great Australian continent, and is about the size of the Island of Great Britain.* Owing to various causes, however, such has been its attractiveness as compared with the other Colonies of the group, that 44 per cent. of the inhabitants of the whole continent have taken up their habitation in this Colony.

* Area of Victoria, 88,198 square miles; area of the Australian Continent, 2,972,346 square miles; area of Great Britain, 89,644 square miles.

VICTORIA.

Population at end of 1878.

3. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of the year 1878, was as follows :—

*Population, 31st December 1878.**

Males - - - -	478,316
Females - - - -	401,126
Total - -	879,442

Increase of population, 1878.

4. The increase of population during the year was 18,655, viz., 10,575 males and 8,080 females. Of this increase, about three-fourths, viz., 13,879, consisting of 6,573 males and 7,306 females, resulted from the excess of births over deaths, and the remainder, viz., 4,776, consisting of 4,002 males and 774 females, was due to excess of arrivals over departures.

Increase of population, 1868 to 1878.

5. The increase of population was less than in the previous year by 1,832, and was also exceeded in the years 1868 to 1871, and in 1873, but was greater than in the other four years of the previous decenniad, as will be seen by the following figures.

Increase of Population.

1868 - -	23,043	1874	17,945
1869 - -	25,176	1875 - -	14,835
1870 - -	26,809	1876 - -	17,028
1871 - -	25,846	1877 - -	20,487
1872 - -	18,282	1878 - -	18,655
1873 - -	19,765		

Average increase of population per annum.

6. The increase of population during 1878 was equivalent to an addition of 2·17 per cent. to the average population at the commencement of the year. This was less than the annual increase during the previous ten years, which was at the rate of 2·77 per cent.

Males and females.

7. The proportions of the sexes in the population, viz., 84 females to 100 males, or 119 males to 100 females, have not varied in the last six years.

Mean population, 1878.

8. In order to afford means for making calculations in regard to the bearing of population on matters the operation of which extends over the entire year, such as revenue, taxation, imports, exports, &c., it is necessary to make an estimate of the mean or average population. The following is such an estimate for the year under review.

Estimated Mean Population, 1878.

Males - - - -	472,309
Females - - - -	396,731
Total - -	869,040

* The latest estimate of the population up to the time of this digest being written was for the 30th June 1879, and was as follows : Males, 482,769 ; females, 404,665 ; total, 887,434.

VICTORIA.

Occupations.

9. No census of the Colony has been taken since 1871, and as the elements of which the population is composed have changed considerably since that period, it is impossible to give with certainty a statement of the occupations of the people at the present time. The following estimate is based, generally, upon the census proportions, but alterations based upon recent information have been made in the case of miners, persons engaged in pastoral pursuits, and agrieultural labourers, domestic servants, wives, children, &c. It may be considered tolerably reliable.

Occupations of the People, 1878, (*estimated*).

Occupations of the People.	Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Ministering to government	4,709	206	4,915
„ religion	992	73	1,065
„ health	1,508	1,420	2,928
„ law	1,336	1	1,337
„ education	2,462	4,439	6,901
„ art, science, and literature	2,008	197	2,205
Traders	10,796	1,571	12,367
Assisting in exchange of money or commodities	9,012	276	9,288
Ministering to entertaining and clothing	14,799	17,347	32,146
Domestic servants	2,764	24,666	27,430
Contractors, artizans, and mechanics	49,309	486	49,795
Miners	36,636	—	36,636
Engaged in pursuits subsidiary to mining	787	2	789
„ pastoral pursuits and agriculture	72,400	30,464	102,864
„ pursuits subsidiary to grazing and agriculture	2,884	7	2,891
„ land carriage	14,365	104	14,469
„ sea navigation	3,197	14	3,211
Dealing in food	15,446	1,251	16,697
Labourers	31,784	20	31,804
Engaged in miscellaneous pursuits	419	44	463
Of independent means	1,589	625	2,214
Wives, widows, children, relatives, scholars	183,003	308,798	491,801
Public burden	8,037	4,241	12,278
Of no occupation, unspecified	2,067	479	2,546
Total	472,309	396,731	869,040

Urban and rural population compared.

10. The following is a division of the population of Victoria into three districts, the first being the district comprised within a radius of 10 miles from the centre of Melbourne; the second, the district outside that area embraced in cities, towns, and boroughs (present or former); and the third, the remainder of the Colony:

Districts.	Mean Population, 1878.	
	Total.	Proportions per cent.
Urban { Metropolitan	256,477	29·51
Urban { Extra-metropolitan	198,385	22·83
Extra-urban or Rural	414,178	47·66
Total of Victoria	869,040	100·00

11. It will thus be seen that the urban is even greater than the rural population, and that the population in the metropolis alone is equal to nearly 30 per cent. of that of the whole Colony. This proportion has a tendency to increase, as will be observed by the following figures:— Increasing proportion of population of metropolis.

Per-centage of Population of Melbourne and Suburbs to Total Population of Victoria.

1861 - - - -	25·89
1871 - - - -	28·27
1878 - - - -	29·51

12. The total number of Aborigines, according to the estimate of the Central Board for their protection, is 1,067. According to the same Board the number in 1873 was 1,553. If the numbers at both periods are correct the falling off in four years has been 486, or nearly one third, and the Aborigines must be decreasing at a much faster rate than has been generally supposed. Aborigines.

13. When the last Victorian census was taken (2nd April 1871) the total population of the gold fields was found to be 270,428. The present population is not known, but an estimate of the number of miners, distinguishing Europeans from Chinese, and those engaged in alluvial workings from those engaged on quartz reefs at the end of 1878, gives the following result: Gold mining population, 1878.

Number of Gold Miners, 1878.

Alluvial miners	22,504	European miners	26,998
Quartz miners	14,132	Chinese miners	9,638
Total	36,636	Total	36,636

14. According to this estimate the total number of persons engaged in searching for or raising gold was less by 1,369 in 1878 than in 1877. The followers of this occupation have for years past been falling off in numbers. Decrease of miners.

15. The arrivals and departures by sea during 1878, also the excess of the former over the latter were as follow:— Immigration and emigration, 1878.

Immigration and Emigration, 1878.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals by sea - - -	30,087	12,181	42,268
Departures by sea - - -	26,085	11,407	37,492
Excess of arrivals - -	4,002	774	4,776

VICTORIA.

Arrivals and departures, 1878 and former years.

16. The arrivals were in 1878 more numerous than in the previous year by 1,072, they also exceeded those in any other year since 1858. The departures in 1878 exceeded those in 1877 by 3,549, and were also in excess of those in any former year since 1853.

Municipalities.

17. Municipal bodies in Victoria are of two kinds, the first being called cities, towns, and boroughs, and the second shires. Both these bodies are regulated under a Colonial Statute, and are called municipalities. Each municipality is a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal, and is capable of suing and being sued, and purchasing, holding, and alienating land, &c.

Number of municipalities.

18. The cities, towns, and boroughs in Victoria numbered 59 both in 1877 and 1878. The shires numbered 111 in the former and 114 in the latter year.

Area of municipalities.

19. The total area included in the two descriptions of municipalities is as follows:—

Estimated Area embraced in Municipalities, 1878.

	Acres.
Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	232,215
Shires - - - - -	52,997,573
Total - -	53,229,788

Proportion to total area of Victoria.

20. The estimated area of Victoria is 56,446,720 acres. It thus appears that about sixteen seventeenths of this area is included within the limits of municipal districts.

Population of municipalities.

21. The estimated population of the two kinds of districts was as follows in 1878:—

Estimated Population of Municipalities, 1878.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - -	414,880
Shires - - - - -	428,993
Total - - -	843,873

Proportion to population of Victoria.

22. It has been already stated that the estimated mean population of Victoria during 1878 was 869,040. It therefore follows that during that year thirty-three thirty-fourths of the inhabitants of the Colony enjoyed the advantages of local self government.

Ratepayers in municipalities.

23. The ratepayers in the two kinds of municipal districts numbered as follow in 1878:—

Ratepayers in Municipalities, 1878.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - - -	93,188
Shires - - - - -	93,204
Total - -	186,392

24. By the above figures, compared with those showing the estimated municipal population, it appears that about one person in every 4·5 persons living in municipalities is a ratepayer. Proportion of ratepayers to population.

25. The following is a statement of the number of dwellings in the two kinds of municipal districts :— Dwellings in municipalities.

Dwellings in Municipalities, 1878.

Cities, towns, and boroughs - - -	89,731
Shires - - - - -	91,230
Total - - -	180,961

26. The dwellings in the Colony have not been enumerated since 1871. At that time the number of all descriptions amounted to 158,481. The houses in municipal districts therefore now exceed by 22,480 the whole number returned at the last census. Increase in number of dwellings.

27. The area contained in shires is about 228 times that in cities, towns, and boroughs, but the population and dwellings in the former only slightly exceed those in the latter. The ratepayers in the two kinds of districts are about equal. Area, population, &c. in shires and boroughs compared.

28. The population in municipal districts in 1878 exceeded by 15,373 that in 1877; the ratepayers exceeded the number in 1877 by 6,621, and the dwellings exceeded the number in the same year by 1,442. The increase of ratepayers is greater, but the increases of population and dwellings less than those in 1877, as compared with 1876, when the population in municipalities increased by 18,648, the ratepayers by 809, and the dwellings by 1,630. Increase of population, dwellings, &c. in municipalities.

29. Of the cities, towns, and boroughs, 47 per cent. in 1876, 41 per cent. in 1877, and 44 per cent. in 1878 were rated at 1*s.* in the pound. Of the shires, 91 per cent. in 1876, 89 per cent. in 1877, and 85 per cent. in 1878 were rated at that amount. Municipalities rated at 1*s.* in the pound.

30. In 1876, 8; in 1877, 4; and in 1878, 5 municipal districts were rated at less than 1*s.* in the pound. In 1876, 33; in 1877, 42; and in 1878, 45 municipal districts were rated at over that amount. Municipalities rated under and over 1*s.* in the pound.

31. The total and annual values of rateable property in the two kinds of municipalities during 1878 were as follows:— Value of rateable property.

Annual Value of Rateable Property, 1878.

	Total Value.	Annual Value.
	£	£
Cities, towns, and boroughs -	31,887,816	3,141,720
Shires - - -	52,545,665	3,889,276
Total -	84,433,481	7,030,996

32. At the end of March 1879 the following was the number of electors on the rolls of both Houses of the Legislature :— Number of Electors.

	Electors.
Legislative Council - - -	31,441
Legislative Assembly - -	176,022

VICTORIA.

Land forces.

33. The land forces of Victoria embrace a paid artillery corps and the various volunteer corps, consisting of the cavalry, artillery, rifle, engineer, torpedo, and signal arms of the service. At the end of 1878, the total military establishment, exclusive of the staff, was 3,806, and the total strength amounted to 3,131, or 675 less than the establishment.

Naval forces.

34. The Victorian naval forces consist of the warships "Cerberus" and "Nelson," and the steam sloop "Victoria"; also of a naval reserve, the men of which receive a small fee as a retainer.

Strength and establishment of naval forces.

35. The strength and establishment of the naval forces at the end of 1878 were as follows:—Six officers and 17 petty officers and men, or 23 in all, were required to complete the establishment.

NAVAL FORCES.—STRENGTH AND ESTABLISHMENT.

Ship or Corps.	Strength, 31st December 1878.				Wanted to complete.	Establishment.
	Officers.	Petty Officers and Men.	Boys.	Total.		
H.M.V.S. "Cerberus" -	10	89	16	115	8	123
" "Nelson" -	1	53	—	54	7	61
" "Victoria" -	2	26	2	30	2	32
Naval Reserve - -	11	214	—	225	6	231
Total -	24	382	18	424	23	447

Expenditure on defences.

36. The military expenditure in 1877–8 was 62,842*l.*, and the naval expenditure 58,424*l.*, making a total of 121,266*l.*

Pensions.

37. Pensions and superannuation allowances in 1877–8 numbered 179, and amounted to 27,610*l.* The average to each recipient was 154*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, as will be seen by the following table:—

Pensions and Superannuation Allowances, 1877–8.

Description of the Recipients.	No.	Amount payable.					
		Total.			Average to each recipient.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Former ministers of the Crown - -	2	1,866	13	4	933	6	8
Daughter of the late Captain Flinders, R.N.	1	100	0	0	100	0	0
Widow of a former Governor of Victoria	1	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
Superannuation allowances - -	—	—			—		
Puisne judge of Supreme Court - -	1	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	0
Surveyor-General - - -	1	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0
County Court judges - - -	3	2,250	0	0	750	0	0
Officers in the Civil Service - -	162	19,677	4	3	121	9	3
Officers in the Lunacy Department -	8	216	10	3	27	1	3
Total - -	179	27,610	7	10	154	4	11

Police pensions, how granted.

38. Superannuation allowances to the police are not included in the foregoing statement, as they are paid out of a fund called the Police Superannuation Fund, which consists of an annual income of 2,800*l.*, arising from the investment of 70,000*l.* in Government stock. This is supplemented by an annual grant of 2,000*l.* from the consolidated revenue, and by fines imposed on and penalties and damages awarded to members of the force by magistrates, and, if necessary, by a deduction, not exceeding 2½ per cent., from the pay of the members of the force. In all cases of a police superannuation allowance being granted, the option is given to the retiring member to commute it for a gratuity equal to one month's pay for each year of service.

Number of police pensions and gratuities. 1877–8.

39. The number of recipients of police retiring allowances in 1877–8 was 64, the gross amount payable was 5,260*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, or an average of 82*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.* to each recipient. In addition, gratuities in lieu of pensions were paid in 13 instances. These gratuities amounted in the aggregate to 4,323*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, or an average of 332*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* to each recipient.

Retiring allowances granted for infirmity.

40. Except in cases of infirmity of mind or body, the minimum age at which retiring allowances are granted to members of the civil service is 60 years, and members of the police force is 55 years. Of the existing retiring allowances, however, 27 per cent. of those granted to civil servants, and so many as 69 per cent. of those granted to the police, were awarded in consequence of infirmity or disablement before the full age had been attained.

Allowances voted by Parliament.

41. In addition to the superannuation allowances for which the amounts are specially appropriated, certain allowances are voted by Parliament each year to retired public servants who, whilst in the employment of the State, were attached to the unclassified branches of the service, and consequently were not comprehended in any of the several statutes under which retiring allowances are legalised. The number of such allowances in 1877–8 was 67, their gross amount 5,587*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, or an average of 83*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* to each recipient.

Marriages, 1878.

42. The marriages celebrated in Victoria during 1878 numbered 5,092 as against 5,103 in the previous year. The excess in favour of 1877 was thus 11.

Marriages, 1878 and former years.

43. Marriages were more numerous in 1878 and in 1877 than in any other year since the first settlement of the Colony. The next highest numbers were 4,985 in 1875, 4,974 in 1873, and 4,949 in 1876. Until 1877 the marriages in Victoria had never numbered 5,000 in any one year.

Marriage rate.

44. Though the marriage rate in Victoria showed a slight improvement in 1877, as compared with 1876, it again decreased in 1878, when it was lower than in any previous year since the third from that in which the Colony was founded. The following table

gives the number of marriages per 1,000 of the population during each of the 11 years ended with 1878:—

Annual Marriage Rate, 1868 to 1878.

Year.	Marriages per 1,000 of the population.
1868	6·99
1869	6·79
1870	6·67
1871	6·35
1872	6·30
1873	6·37
1874	6·17
1875	6·12
1876	5·96
1877	6·00
1878	5·86
Average of 11 years - -	6·30

Former condition of persons married.

45 About four-fifths of the unions which take place are between bachelors and spinsters, next most numerous are generally those between bachelors and widows, although in the last three years these have been exceeded by marriages between widowers and spinsters. Marriages between widowers and widows are generally somewhat less than a twentieth of the whole. The following are the number and per-centage in each of these groups during 1878, and the per-centage during the previous decennial period:—

Former Condition of Persons married.

Previous Condition.	Year 1878.		Per-centage in Ten Years, 1868 to 1877.
	Number of Marriages.	Per-centage.	
Bachelors and spinsters - - -	4,112	80·76	80·09
Bachelors and widows - - -	346	6·79	7·74
Widowers and spinsters - - -	395	7·76	7·71
Widowers and widows - - -	239	4·69	4·46
Total - -	5,092	100·00	100·00

Divorced persons.

46. Divorced persons marrying are classed as bachelors and spinsters, unless in cases where they had become widowers or widows before contracting the marriage from which they were

released by divorce. Three divorced males and seven divorced females were married in 1878. In one of these instances the divorced couple were reunited; the other two divorced males married spinsters, and the other six divorced females married bachelors.

Deserted husbands and wives.

47. Persons whose wives or husbands have not been heard of for a period of seven years may marry again without rendering themselves liable to be prosecuted for bigamy; but such unions are subject to the serious disadvantage that the issue by the second marriage would be illegitimate, and the marriage itself void, if it should turn out that the first husband or wife was alive at the time thereof. Notwithstanding this disability, however, the provision is frequently taken advantage of. There males, and as many as 14 females availed themselves of it in 1878. Of the former, two married widows, and one married a spinster; they had not heard of their former wives for 7, 14, and 20 years respectively. Of the latter, nine married bachelors, and five widowers; two had not heard of their former husbands for seven years, four for nine years, two for 16 years, and the remainder had not heard of theirs for 8, 10, 13, 19, 21, and 28 years respectively; three of these had, previous to desertion, been separated from their husbands. Deserted males and females remarrying are tabulated as widowers and widows, since it is only on the assumption that their former helpmate is dead that the law does not prohibit their contracting a fresh union.

Re-marriages.

48. In 1878, 634 widowers and 585 widows re-entered the marriage state. During the last five years more widowers have remarried than widows. Formerly it was different. In the six years ended with 1873 the widowers re-entering the marriage state numbered 3,353 and the widows 3,529, and at earlier periods in the history of the Colony the preponderance of re-marriages of widows over those of widowers was even greater than this. Such a circumstance would be likely to happen only in a country in which females are scarce as compared with males. In England and Wales, during the 20 years ended with 1874 48 per cent. more widowers re-married than widows, the number of the former being 490,912, that of the latter 332,428.

Marriages of Aborigines.

49. The marriages of four aboriginal males with aboriginal females are included in the returns of 1878.

Marriages of Chinese.

50. Thirteen Chinese males were married in Victoria in the year 1878, as against 20 in 1877, 14 in 1876, and 20 in 1875. During the 12 years prior to the year under review, 217 Chinamen were married in Victoria, or an average of 18 per annum.

Sects of Aboriginals married.

51. Of the 4 aboriginal marriages which took place in 1878, 2 were solemnized according to the rites of the Moravian, 1 according to those of the Baptist, and 1 according to those of the Presbyterian Church.

VICTORIA.

Sects of Chinese married.

52. Of the marriages of Chinese in 1878, 2 were celebrated according to the rites of the Church of England, 4 according to those of the Presbyterian, and 3 according to those of the Wesleyan Church; 1 was celebrated according to the rites of the Baptist Church, 1 was performed by a clergyman of the Free Church of England "without any church rites," and 2 were performed by lay registrars.

Increased numbers signing in writing.

53. In proportion to the total numbers married an evident increase has taken place of late years in the number of both males and females signing the marriage register in writing. This improvement is apparent from year to year, each year, as compared with its predecessor, showing a smaller proportion of persons signing with marks. The following are the proportions in the last six years:—

Numbers signing with Marks per 100 *married,* 1873 *to* 1878.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Mean.
1873 - - -	6·55	9·97	8·26
1874 - - -	6·52	9·91	8·22
1875 - - -	5·48	9·43	7·46
1876 - - -	5·31	7·50	6·41
1877 - - -	5·04	6·02	5·53
1878 - - -	4·12	5·30	4·71

Signing with marks, 1853 to 1872.

54. A very much more decided improvement is shown by comparing these results with those of the 20 years prior to 1873, which embrace the whole period from 1853, when the registration system was inaugurated in Victoria, to the end of 1872. In this period 86,062 marriages were registered, with the result that 7,902 of the bridegrooms and 17,824 of the brides signed the register with marks. These numbers give the following proportions as the average for the 20 years:—

Numbers signing with Marks per 100 *married,* 1853 *to* 1872.

Men.	Women.	Mean.
9·18	20·71	14·95

Ages of persons married.

55. The age of both bride and bridegroom was specified in the case of all but 52 of the 5,092 marriages which took place in 1878. In 41 of the defective entries the age of neither party was given; in 2 cases the age of the husband was stated, not that of

the wife, and in 9 instances the age of the wife was given, not that of the husband. The following table shows the ages of the husbands and of the wives in combination :—

Ages of Persons married, 1878.

Ages of Husbands.	Ages of Wives.																		Total Husbands.
	14 to 15.	15 to 16.	16 to 17.	17 to 18.	18 to 19.	19 to 20.	20 to 21.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 to 75.	Unspecified.	
17 to 18 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
18 to 19 „	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
19 to 20 „	—	1	—	7	5	7	3	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
20 to 21 „	—	1	1	7	14	19	26	36	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	107
21 to 25 „	1	4	25	72	146	208	226	803	101	16	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,606
25 to 30 „	—	5	11	37	83	132	158	625	268	50	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,382
30 to 35 „	—	—	5	10	40	43	61	263	187	79	25	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	725
35 to 40 „	—	—	2	7	17	22	16	124	107	58	56	21	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	438
40 to 45 „	—	—	1	4	7	6	10	70	59	56	39	31	11	4	—	—	—	—	—	298
45 to 50 „	—	—	1	1	2	3	3	30	36	44	30	28	29	12	3	1	—	—	—	223
50 to 55 „	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	8	7	13	18	19	18	11	5	2	—	—	—	105
55 to 60 „	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	3	10	15	15	5	2	2	—	—	58
60 to 65 „	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	5	6	9	4	4	4	1	—	—	37
65 to 70 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	4	1	1	1	—	13
70 to 75 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	7
Unspecified	—	—	—	2	3	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	50
Total wives	1	11	46	148	321	446	508	1,975	773	319	193	126	92	48	25	12	4	1	43	5,092

NOTE.—This table may be read thus :—Four men between 40 and 45 married girls between 17 and 18; three women between 55 and 60 married men between 45 and 50, &c.

Relative ages of husband and wife.

56. An examination of the above table will show that in 1,323 instances, or 26 per cent. of the whole, both parties to the marriage were about the same age ; in 351 instances or 7 per cent. of the whole, the wife was older than the husband, and in 3,366 instances, or 67 per cent. of the whole, the husband was older than the wife. These proportions are about the same as in the previous year.

Marriages of minors.

57. Boys not under 14 and girls not under 12 years of age may, with the consent of their parents or guardians, legally marry in Victoria ; but, as a matter of fact, marriages are seldom contracted at such early ages. The youngest male who married in 1878 was aged 17, and the youngest female 14. As many, however, as 150 of the males, or 1 in every 34, and no fewer than 1,481 of the females, or 1 in about 3·5, had not attained the full age of 21 years. By comparing these proportions with similar ones for the previous ten years, it would appear that the tendency to marry under age is increasing.

Marriages of minors in Victoria and England.

58. In proportion to the total numbers marrying, more females and fewer males marry under age in Victoria than in England

VICTORIA.

and Wales. This is shown by the figures in the following table:—

Marriages of Minors in Victoria and England and Wales.

Persons married.	In every 100 Marriages, Numbers under 21 years of age.		
	In Victoria.		In England and Wales.
	Year 1878.	Ten years; 1868 to 1877.	Ten years; 1868 to 1877.
Bridegrooms - - -	2·97	2·08	7·90
Brides - - - -	29·37	28·29	21·91
Mean - -	16·16	14·39	14·90

Births, 1878.

59. The births registered in Victoria during 1878 numbered 26,581, as against 26,010 in 1877. The increase in the year under review, as compared with the previous one, was thus 571.

Births in 1878 and former years.

60. The births, though more numerous in 1878 than in 1877, were fewer than in any other year to as far back as 1868. Prior to 1868, however, births were never so numerous in any year as those in 1878.*

Birth rate.

61. The birth rate has been decreasing steadily for years past, and in 1878 was lower than it was in any year of the previous decenniad. The following are the figures for the 11 years:—

Year.	Births per 1,000 of mean Population.	Year.	Births per 1,000 of mean Population.
1868 - -	40·59	1874 - -	33·56
1869 - -	37·36	1875 - -	32·78
1870 - -	38·25	1876 - -	32·23
1871 - -	37·07	1877 - -	30·60
1872 - -	35·95	1878 - -	30·59
1873 - -	36·01		
		Mean of 11 years	34·75

Births of males and females.

62. The births of males in Victoria during 1878 numbered 13,752, those of females 12,829. These numbers furnish a proportion of 107·2 boys to 100 girls. In the previous ten years

* For number of births in each year *see* Statistical Summary of Victoria, *post*.

137,501 births of males and 132,075 births of females were registered, which give a proportion of 104·1 boys to 100 girls.

Births of males and females in United Kingdom.

63. In every country in which births are registered it is found that more males are born than females. In England and Wales, during the ten years ended with 1875, 104·5 boys were born to 100 girls; in Scotland, during 1876, 105 boys were born to 100 girls; and in Ireland, during 1875 and 1876, nearly 106 boys were born to 100 girls.

Twins and triplets.

64. Twins were born in 252 instances in 1878, but only one case occurred of a triplet being born. In the 13 years ended with 1878, 3,221 cases of twins and 24 cases of triplets were recorded, the total number of births in the same period having been 346,775. There were thus 343,506 confinements in the 13 years, and it follows that 1 mother in every 107 gave birth to twins, and 1 mother in every 14,313 was delivered of three children at a birth.

Illegitimate births.

65. Eleven hundred and three illegitimate children were born in 1878, or 1 in every 24 births registered. This proportion is greater than in any previous year. The illegitimate births in 1877 were 1 in 26; in 1876, 1 in 27; in 1875, 1 in 34; in 1874, 1 in 28; and in 1873, 1 in 31. In the last 13 years out of 346,775 infants born 10,917 were set down as having been born out of wedlock, which numbers furnish a proportion of 1 illegitimate child born to every 32 births.

Women living in concubinage.

66. From the number of births of legitimate children it is calculated that, approximately, 84,645 married women at the fruitful or child-bearing age were living in the Colony during 1878, and from the number of births of illegitimate children that, exclusive of public prostitutes, who, as they rarely have children, are omitted from the computation, at least 3,664 single women at a similar period of life were living in concubinage. The total number of single women between 15 and 45 years of age may be estimated to have been 87,236 during the year. It therefore follows that 1 out of every 23 of these was living immorally.

Illegitimacy in Colonies and Britain.

67. Illegitimacy during a period of six years was less rife in Victoria than in New South Wales, where again it was less common than in England and Scotland. The following are the figures:—

Illegitimate Births per 100 *Children born.*

(*Mean of Six Years.*)

Victoria - - - - -	3·38
New South Wales - - -	4·14
England and Wales - - -	5 10
Scotland - - - - -	8·90

Deaths, 1878.

68. The deaths in 1878 numbered 12,702, as against 12,776 in 1877. The decrease in the year under notice was thus 74.

VICTORIA.

Deaths, 1878 and former years.

69. The year in which more deaths occurred than in any other since the first settlement of the Colony was 1875, in which the numbered registered was 15,287. The next year in point of total mortality was 1876, then 1877, and the next the year under notice.

Excess of births over deaths.

70. The births in 1878 exceeded the deaths by 13,879, or 109 per cent., as against 104 per cent. in 1877. In the 11 years ended with 1878 the proportion was 126 per cent. The following were the births and deaths in each of those 11 years and the excess of the former over the latter. It will be noticed that the births more than doubled the deaths in all the years except 1875 and 1876, when the mortality was swelled by the presence of epidemics:—

Excess of Births over Deaths, 1868 *to* 1878.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	
			Numerical.	Centesimal.
				per cent.
1868 - -	27,243	10,067	17,176	171
1869 - -	26,040	10,630	15,410	145
1870 - -	27,151	10,420	16,731	161
1871 - -	27,382	9,918	17,464	176
1872 - -	27,361	10,831	16,530	153
1873 - -	28,100	11,501	16,599	144
1874 - -	26,800	12,222	14,578	119
1875 - -	26,720	15,287	11,433	75
1876 - -	26,769	13,561	13,208	97
1877 - -	26,010	12,776	13,234	104
1878 - -	26,581	12,702	13,879	109
Mean - -	26,923	11,811	15,112	128

Deaths of males and females.

71. Deaths of males in 1878 numbered 7,179, and deaths of females 5,523. These numbers furnish a proportion of 77 females to every 100 males, as against 74 per cent. in the previous year. Females in the total population are in the proportion of 84 to every 100 males; therefore more males and fewer females died in 1877 and 1878 than their relative numbers in the population might have given reason to expect.

Annual death rate.

72. It will be observed by the following table, which shows the death rate of males and females, and of both sexes during each of the past 11 years, that in 1878 the total death rate and the death rate of males was lower than in any year of the previous decenniad except 1871 and 1872, and that the death rate of

females was lower than in any year except 1870, 1871, 1872, and 1873. It will also be noticed that, in pursuance of what appears to be a natural law, the death rate in all the years bore more hardly upon males than upon females :—

Annual Death Rate, 1868 *to* 1878.

Year.	Deaths per 1,000 of the Mean Population.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
1868	15·77	14·03	15·00
1869	16·19	14·10	15·25
1870	15·66	13·48	14·68
1871	14·43	12·20	13·43
1872	15·18	13·10	14·23
1873	15·45	13·88	14·74
1874	16·11	14·34	15·30
1875	19·35	18·06	18·76
1876	17·10	15·40	16·33
1877	15·91	13·99	15·03
1878	15·20	13·92	14·62
Mean of 11 years -	16·06	14·27	15·25

Note.—In 1875, and to a certain extent in the preceding and succeeding year, the death rate was swelled by epidemics of measles and scarlatina.

Normal death rate.

73. However favourable may be the circumstances for prolonging life, as all must die at some time or other, it is evident that every country must have a death rate; and it has been maintained that in countries in which the climate is healthy, hygiene properly attended to, and the population in a normal condition as regards age, the ordinary mortality incident to human nature would probably cause this death rate to be in the proportion of about 17 per 1,000 persons living. In Victoria the mortality reached as high as this rate only once in the 11 years named in the table. In the last year it was $2\frac{1}{3}$ deaths below it per 1,000 persons living, and, according to the average annual mortality of the 11 years it was $1\frac{3}{4}$ deaths below it per 1,000 persons living.

Death rates in town and country.

74. In every country the death rate in towns is higher than in is in the extra-urban districts. This is no doubt partly due to the superior healthfulness and immunity from contagion prevailing in the latter, but also to the fact that hospitals and charitable institutions, which are frequented by patients from the country as well as by town residents, are generally situated in the towns; also that outside of charitable institutions many persons die who have come from the country on the approach of serious illness for the sake of the superior nursing and medical attendance to be obtained in town. In 1878, as also in the previous year, the death rate was somewhat higher in Melbourne and suburbs than in

the country towns, but in both it was very much higher than in the conntry districts. The following are the figures for 1878:—

Deaths in Urban and Country Districts, 1878.

Districts.	Estimated Mean Population.	Deaths, 1878.	
		Total Number.	Number per 1,000 of the Population.
Melbourne and suburbs -	256,477	5,160	20·12
Towns outside Melbourne and suburbs - - -	198,385	3,868	19·50
Country districts - -	414,178	3,674	8·87
Total - -	869,040	12,702	14·62

Normal death rate in town and country.

75. In Victorian towns the annual mortality is always much above the normal 17 per 1,000 persons living, but in country districts it is always very considerably below this rate.

Death rates in towns of United Kingdom.

76. The mortality of Melbourne and suburbs is lower than that of most towns in the United Kingdom. In the following list, which shows the death rate of 23 such towns, the only towns with a lower death rate than Melbourne are Portsmouth and Brighton:—

Death Rates in 23 *Towns of the United Kingdom*, 1873 *to* 1877.

	Annual Deaths per 1,000 of the Population.
Portsmouth - - - -	19·56
Brighton - - - -	19·82
Plymouth - - - -	21·26
Edinburgh - - - -	22·18
Sunderland - - - -	22·44
Norwich - - - -	22·48
London - - - -	22·58
Nottingham - - - -	23·22
Bristol - - - -	23·40
Leicester - - - -	23·94
Hull - - - -	24·28
Wolverhampton - - -	24·34
Sheffield - - - -	24·74
Bradford - - - -	24·92
Birmingham - - - -	25·02
Oldham - - - -	25·88
Leeds - - - -	26·02
Newcastle-on-Tyne - - -	26·12
Dublin - - - -	26·50

	Annual Deaths per 1,000 of the Population.
Salford - - - -	27·52
Glasgow - - - -	27·78
Liverpool - - - -	27·90
Manchester - - - -	29·40
Mean of towns named - -	24·40
Death rate of Melbourne and suburbs -	20·9

77. The death rate of infants in 1878 was less than in 1877, and was also slightly below the average. The total number who died under 1 year of age was 3,262, and as the births numbered 26,581, it follows that 1 infant died to every 8 births, or 12·27 infants to every 100 births. In the decennial period, 1868 to 1877, the proportion of infants dying before completing their first year was 12·45 to every 100 births. Infantile mortality, 1878.

78. The infantile mortality of large towns is naturally always greater than that in country districts. Thus the deaths at under 1 year of age in Melbourne and suburbs during the 5 years ended with 1878, averaged nearly 17 per 100 births, whilst in the country districts of Victoria the mortality of infants at the same period of life averaged only $10\frac{1}{3}$ per 100 births. The following table shows the death rate of infants in the metropolis and in the country districts during each of the 6 years named:— Infantile mortality in Melbourne and country.

Infantile Mortality in and outside of Melbourne and Suburbs.

Year.	Melbourne and Suburbs.			Victoria, outside Melbourne and Suburbs.		
	Births.	Deaths under 1 Year of Age.		Births.	Deaths under 1 Year of Age.	
		Total Number.	Number to 100 Births.		Total Number.	Number to 100 Births.
1873 - -	8,007	1,277	15·95	20,093	1,904	9·48
1874 - -	7,946	1,480	18·63	18,854	1,861	9·87
1875 - -	8,227	1,546	18·79	18,493	2,265	12·25
1876 - -	8,202	1,339	16·33	18,567	1,641	8·84
1877 - -	8,295	1,407	16·96	17,715	1,892	10·68
1878 - -	8,636	1,297	15.02	17,903	1,965	10·98
Sums and means -	49,313	8,346	16·90	111,625	11,528	10·33

79. As compared with the births, the infantile mortality of Melbourne and suburbs is, on the average, greater than that of Portsmouth, Brighton, Plymouth, London, or Bristol, but is less than that of 15 other English towns of which particulars are Infantile mortality in English towns.

VICTORIA.

available. The following are the towns in question, arranged in order according to the infantile death rate prevailing within their respective limits; the town with the lowest death rate being placed first, and that with the highest last. It is a remarkable fact that a very low infantile death rate prevails in London, whilst that in Liverpool is higher than in any other large town in England:—

Infantile Mortality in Twenty Towns of England, 1870 *to* 1876.

—	Deaths under one year of age to 100 births.	—	Deaths under one year of age to 100 births.
Portsmouth	14·5	Nottingham	18·8
Brighton	16·0	Salford	18·9
Plymouth	16·0	Newcastle-on-Tyne	18·9
London	16·1	Norwich	19·3
Bristol	16·3	Manchester	19·6
Sunderland	17·1	Bradford	19·8
Wolverhampton	17·2	Leeds	20·0
Birmingham	17·9	Leicester	22·5
Hull	17·9	Liverpool	23·1
Oldham	18·2		
Sheffield	18·4	Mean of towns named	18·3

Deaths under one year of age in Melbourne, per 100 births - - 16·9

Causes of death classified.

80. The following table shows, in classified arrangement, the causes of death in Victoria, and the numbers who died from each cause during 1878 and during the 24½ years ended with 1877:—

Causes of Death in classified Arrangement. (24½ *Years*, 1853–1877, *and Year* 1878).

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
			24½ Years, 1853–1877.	Year 1878.
		All causes	249,428	12,702
		Specified causes	247,858	12,671
		CLASSES.		
I.	—	Zymotic diseases	77,368	3,391
II.	—	Constitutional diseases	32,473	1,828
III.	—	Local diseases	81,919	4,939
IV.	—	Developmental diseases	35,327	1,650
V.	—	Violent deaths	20,771	863
		ORDERS.		
I.	1	Miasmatic diseases	71,320	3,058
	2	Enthetic diseases	630	34
	3	Dietic diseases	4,039	226
	4	Parasitic diseases	1,379	73
II.	1	Diathetic diseases	6,504	423
	2	Tubercular diseases	25,969	1,405

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
			24½ Years, 1853–1877.	Year 1878.
III.	1	Brain diseases - - - -	26,590	1,467
	2	Heart diseases - - - -	10,948	724
	3	Lung diseases - - - -	22,992	1,398
	4	Bowel diseases - - - -	17,402	1,005
	5	Kidney diseases - - - -	2,451	266
	6	Gennetic diseases - - - -	427	23
	7	Bone and muscle diseases - -	595	28
	8	Skin diseases - - - -	514	28
IV.	1	Developmental diseases of children -	12,098	459
	2	„ „ women -	2,428	154
	3	„ „ old people -	3,253	337
	4	Diseases of Nutrition - - -	17,548	700
V.	1	Accident - - - - -	18,790	757
	2	Battle - - - - -	—	—
	3	Homicide - - - - -	440	19
	4	Suicide - - - - -	1,470	87
	5	Execution - - - - -	71	—
		DISEASES, &c.		
I.		Small-pox - - - -	21	—
		Chicken-pox - - - -	40	—
		Measles - - - - -	3,839	5
		Scarlatina - - - - -	8,487	136
		Diphtheria - - - -	7,161	336
		Quinsy - - - - -	567	26
		Croup - - - - -	3,373	331
		Whooping cough - - - -	3,814	291
		Typhoid fever, &c. - - -	10,076	532
		Erysipelas - - - -	931	41
		Metria - - - - -	604	49
		Carbuncle, boil, &c. - - -	54	5
		Influenza, coryza, catarrh - - -	821	18
		Dysentery - - - -	12,049	197
		Diarrhœa - - - - -	16,139	877
		Cholera - - - - -	1,121	72
		Ague - - - - -	83	5
		Remittent fever - - - -	653	22
		Rheumatism - - - -	1,117	79
		Miasmatic diseases, not classed - -	370	36
I.	2	Syphilis - - - - -	490	24
		Gonorrhœa, stricture of the urethra -	138	10
		Glanders - - - - -	2	—
I	3	Privation - - - - -	377	31
		Want of breast-milk - - -	1,755	122
		Puerpura and scurvy - - -	255	7
		Alcoholism - - - -	1,627	64
		Other dietic diseases - - -	25	2
I.	4	Thrush - - - - -	907	32
		Worms, &c. - - - -	56	2
		Hydatids - - - - -	399	37
		Other parasitic diseases - - -	17	2
II.	1	Gout - - - - -	138	13
		Dropsy - - - - -	1,904	53
		Cancer - - - - -	3,536	314
		Tumour - - - - -	336	28
II.	1	Polypus - - - - -	8	1
		Noma - - - - -	58	4
		Mortification - - - -	357	8
		Other diathetic diseases - - -	167	2

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
			24½ Years, 1853–1877.	Year 1878.
II.	2	Scrofula	941	26
		Tabes mesenterica	2,028	87
		Phthisis	18,511	1,124
		Hydrocephalus	3,813	134
		Other tubercular diseases	676	34
III.	1	Cephalitis	3,907	273
		Apoplexy	4,266	358
		Paralysis	2,061	180
		Insanity	254	1
		Chorea	34	3
		Epilepsy	950	67
		Convulsions	9,032	318
		Other diseases of the nervous system	6,086	267
III.	2	Pericarditis	633	34
		Aneurism	1,308	68
		Other diseases of the circulatory system	9,007	622
III.	3	Laryngitis	742	56
		Bronchitis	7,198	413
		Pleurisy	1,317	93
		Pneumonia	9,790	545
		Congestion of the lungs, pulmonary apoplexy	2,000	186
		Asthma	605	31
		Other diseases of the respiratory system	1,340	74
III.	4	Gastritis	2,230	180
		Enteritis	4,555	185
		Peritonitis	1,383	67
		Ascites	397	15
		Ulceration of intestines	354	14
		Hernia	349	21
		Ileus	671	48
		Intussusception	152	6
		Stricture of intestines	61	6
		Fistula	36	3
		Stomach diseases, undefined	1,131	81
		Pancreas disease	12	1
		Hepatitis	2,002	73
		Jaundice, gall-stone	754	47
		Liver disease undefined	3,238	251
		Spleen disease	77	7
III.	5	Nephritis	306	20
		Ischuria	54	4
		Nephria	687	115
		Diabetes	186	13
		Stone, gravel	81	7
		Cystitis	230	26
		Other diseases of the urinary organs	907	81
III.	6	Ovarian dropsy	89	5
		Other diseases of the generative organs	338	18
III.	7	Arthritis	120	5
		Ostitis, periostitis	30	4
		Other diseases of the locomotive system	445	19
III.	8	Phlegmon, whitlow	47	2
		Ulcer	153	11
		Other diseases of the skin	314	15
IV	1	Premature birth	4,440	277
		Cyanosis	286	21
		Spina bifida	204	8
		Other malformations	597	34
		Teething	6,560	119
		Other developmental diseases of children	11	—

Class.	Order.	Causes of Death.	Number of Deaths.	
			24½ Years, 1853–1877.	Year 1878
IV.	2	Paramenia - - -	78	5
		Childbirth - - - -	2,349	149
		Other developmental diseases of adults -	1	—
IV.	3	Old age - - - - -	3,253	337
IV.	4	Atrophy and debility - - -	17,548	700
V.	1	Fractures, contusions, &c. - -	6,346	303
		Wounds - - - - -	446	23
		Burns and scalds - - - -	1,930	83
		Sunstroke - - - -	354	25
		Struck by lightning - - -	31	2
		Poison - - - - -	330	14
		Snake or insect bite - - -	63	6
		Drowning - - - - -	4,157	227
		Suffocation - - - -	1,389	62
		Other or unspecified accidents - -	3,744	12
V.	3	Murder and manslaughter - - -	440	19
V.	4	Wounds - - - - -	453	6
		Poison - - - -	280	10
		Drowning - - - - -	284	15
		Hanging - - - - -	398	20
		Suicide by other means - - -	55	30
V.	5	Judicial hanging - - - -	71	6
		Causes not specified - - -	1,570	31

Zymotic diseases.

81. Zymotic diseases, to which nearly a third of the total mortality during a series of years has been ascribed, were in 1878 much below the average in point of fatality. The principal complaint under this head, both in 1878 and according to the average, is diarrhœa, which in the year under review caused more deaths than any other single disease except phthisis. Dysentery is usually the next most fatal zymotic disease, but the mortality from it in 1878 was much below the average. Typhoid fever, though slightly below the average, caused a far higher mortality in 1878 than any other zymotic disease except diarrhœa Diphtheria also, though below the average in 1878, always maintains a high position as a cause of death, being usually the twelfth most fatal of all diseases; a great number of persons fall a prey to this disease every year with little fluctuation. Of other miasmatic diseases, croup, whooping cough, and metria were unusually fatal in the year under review, being much above the average; though the rate of mortality from these three diseases is usually lower than in England, in 1878 the rate from the first named disease far exceeded, and that from the last nearly attained, the rate prevailing in England. The death rate from the three other orders of zymotic diseases was below the average; to two of them, however—dietic and parasitic diseases—a far higher rate of mortality is always ascribed in Victoria than in England, the most fatal complaints under the former head being want of breast-milk and alcoholism, and under the latter thrush and hydatids.

Typhoid fever.

82. Exactly the same number of deaths were caused by typhoid fever in 1878 as in 1877. The actual mortality from this com-

VICTORIA.

plaint was greater in each of these two years than in any other year of the previous decenniad, but, as compared with population, the mortality from typhoid was greater than in these two years in the first but in no other year of that period. As typhoid fever alone causes about 400 deaths annually in Victoria, and affects principally the young adults of the population, attacking both strong and weak alike, this disease above all others should be carefully watched, especially if it be true, as asserted, that its ravages are to a great extent under control.*

Typhoid fever in England and Wales.

83. In England and Wales the mortality from typhoid fever has been considerably reduced of late years. During the five years ended with 1874 the death rate therefrom was 5·58 per 10,000 living, whereas in 1875, 1876, and 1877, respectively, it fell to 4·85, 3·96, and 3·61 per 10,000. All these rates are lower than those prevailing in Victoria, where the average is 5·19 per 10,000.

Constitutional diseases.

84. Under Class II., constitutional diseases, those under Order 1, diathetic diseases, were above, and those under Order 2, tubercular diseases, were below the average. The increase under the former head was due to cancer, the rate from which has of late years been much above the average, and in the last two years even exceeded the rate in England, where it is also increasing. This painful and at present almost incurable disease stood fourteenth in order of fatality in 1878, and eleventh in 1877, the twenty-second being its usual position. Under the latter head, hydrocephalus was much below and phthisis was above the average.

Deaths from phthisis.

85. Deaths from phthisis in 1878 numbered 1,124, which is a larger number than was ever previously recorded in any year. Phthisis in Victoria is, upon the average, the most destructive of all diseases. A greater mortality in 1875 resulted from measles, and in 1876 from scarlatina, than from phthisis, but these epidemics having subsided, phthisis again resumed its place at the head of the list of causes of death.

Deaths from phthisis. at various ages.

86. Phthisis not only causes the greatest total number of deaths. but removes its victims at the best, the strongest, and the most promising period of life, no less than 66 per cent. of those who died of it in 1878 being between the ages of 15 and 45. The distress occasioned by this disease, pre-eminently above all others to upwards of a 1,000 families annually, is readily realised when it is contemplated that nearly 30 deaths out of every 100 betweeu the ages of 15 and 35 during 1878 were due to its insidious effects; and that nearly a fifth of the total deaths between the ages of 35 and 45 were attributable to the same cause.

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* Dr. Farr states that " by stricter attention to the water supply, the milk supply, " washing, and other ways through which the specific germs (enterads)of enteric fever " are conveyed, the ravages of this disease may be mitigated, if not suppressed." *See* his letter printed in the Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Registrar-General, England, page 227.

Deaths from Phthisis, 1878.—*Age at Death.*

Ages.	Number who died from Phthisis.			Per-centage of Deaths from Phthisis to those from all causes.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Under 5 years -	22	16	38	·76
5 to 10 „ -	7	4	11	1·85
10 to 15 „ -	3	17	20	6·29
15 to 25 „ -	107	121	228	27·14
25 to 35 „ -	123	131	254	30·75
35 to 45 „ -	148	109	257	20·69
45 to 55 „ -	122	65	187	13·22
55 to 65 „ -	81	23	104	9·19
65 to 75 „ -	13	5	18	2·20
75 years and upwards	5	2	7	1·41
Total - -	631	493	1,124	8·85

Local diseases.

87. Under Class III., local diseases, the death rate from brain diseases, Order 1, diseases of the stomach and bowels, Order 4, gennetic diseases, Order 6, diseases of the bone and muscle, Order 7, and of the skin, Order 8, were in 1878 below the average. The death rate from diseases of the circulatory system, Order 2, however, was considerably above the average. This is due to the increase in heart disease, which rose from the ninth, its usual position, to the fifth place in order of fatality. The death rate from diseases of the respiratory system, Order 3, was also above the average. Two very fatal diseases are comprised under this head, pneumonia and bronchitis, which together caused nearly 1,000 deaths during the past year. The death rate from urinary diseases, Order 5, was in 1878 nearly twice as high as the average, and even exceeded in that year the rate prevailing in England and Wales.

Developmental diseases.

88. Under Class IV., developmental diseases, the death rates from those peculiar to children, Order 1, and from diseases of nutrition, Order 4, were much below the average, whilst the death rate from those peculiar to adults, Order 2, and to old people, Order 3, was much above the average. Premature birth, the principal cause of death in 1878 under Order 1, caused 277 deaths, which number gives a proportion of 8 per cent. of the total deaths under 1 year, and amounts to 1 per cent. of the total births recorded.

Violent deaths.

89. Deaths from external causes, Class V., were much below the average. It will be readily believed that violent deaths are not so common now as in the earlier days of the gold discoveries, but the fact will scarcely be credited that, in proportion to population, not only are they still much more numerous than in England, with its network of railways, its extensive and varied manufactories, and its coal mines, but that in the year under review they even exceeded the proportionate number in the worst district in England for violent deaths during 1877. Of the 863 violent deaths recorded in Victoria during 1878, 757, or 88 per cent.,

VICTORIA.

were ascribed to accident, 19, or 2 per cent., to homicide, and 87, or 10 per cent. to suicide. Deaths from accidents were formerly more numerous than those from any single disease, but in 1878 they were less than the deaths caused either by phthisis or diarrhœa; 40 per cent. of these deaths were due to fractures, and 30 per cent. to drowning. Homicides were below the average, but suicides, though fewer in proportion to population in the last 2 than in the 3 years immediately preceding them, were above the average of a series of years; the death rates under both these heads is much higher than in England. No death from execution took place during the year.

Suicidal deaths.

90. Eighty-seven persons took their own lives in 1878, and 92 in the previous year. During the ten years ended with 1877 the mean annual number of deaths by suicide was 84.

Deaths in childbed.

91. Deaths from childbearing have been more numerous in proportion to the births during the last five years than they were previously; but except in 1874 and 1875, the rate has never been so high as in the year under review. The following are the deaths and death rate from childbirth and metria during the last 11 years:—

Deaths of Women in Childbirth, 1868 *to* 1878.

Year.	Number of Mothers who died of			Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children born alive.
	Childbirth.	Metria.	Total.	
1868 - -	110	23	133	48·82
1869 - -	105	18	123	47·23
1870 - -	115	9	124	45·67
1871 - -	90	12	102	37·25
1872 - -	123	16	139	50·80
1873 - -	127	44	171	60·85
1874 - -	142	109	251	93·66
1875 - -	154	83	237	88·70
1876 - -	117	48	165	61·64
1877 - -	131	42	173	66·51
1878 - -	149	49	198	74·49
Total in eleven years -	1,363	453	1,816	61·32

Deaths in childbed in England.

92. The death rate from the consequences of childbirth in Victoria is enormous, and demands inquiry. In England and Wales the death rate of mothers ranged during a period of 30 years from 42 to 69 per 10,000 births of living children, which were the extreme limits, the average rate during the whole period having been 50. Even this, which is far lower than that of Victoria, is referred to by Dr. Farr as a "deep, dark, and con- "tinuous stream of mortality," and is attributed to a want of skill on the part of midwives and physicians.* To show to what extent this great mortality might be reduced, the returns for the

* For an exhaustive inquiry into the causes of death in childbirth, see Dr. Farr's letter, published as an appendix to the 39th Annual Report of the Registrar-General, England, pages 241 to 251.

whole of England are contrasted by Dr. Farr with those of two large institutions, viz., the Royal Maternity Charity (London), and the Birmingham Lying-in Charity, which experience an average of only about 22 deaths to every 10,000 deliveries! As in these charities some of the women were stated to have been in a most "lamentable and destitute condition," it would naturally be supposed that the rate in the general community would, at least, not be greater than in them, but unfortunately the fact is just the opposite. There is no doubt that by the exercise of care and skill on the part of medical men and midwives many valuable lives might be saved both in England and here.

Sickness and deaths in general hospitals.

93. There are 33 general hospitals in Victoria, 8 of which are also benevolent asylums. The total number of cases of sickness treated in these institutions during 1878 was 15,122, and the number of deaths was 1,544. In 1877, the cases of sickness treated numbered 14,810, and the deaths 1,550. There was thus 1 death to every 9·8 cases of sickness treated in hospitals during 1878, as against 1 death to every 9·5 cases of sickness treated therein during the previous year.

Sickness and deaths in hospital for women.

94. The patients treated in the hospital for diseases of women and children attached to the Lying-in Hospital numbered 251 in 1877, and 237 in in 1878. The deaths in the same institution numbered 14 in both years. Therefore, 1 patient in 18 died in 1877, and 1 in 17 in 1878.

Deaths in Lying-in Hospital.

95. In the Melbourne Lying-in Hospital 520 women were confined in 1877, and 555 in 1878. Eight died in the former year, and 6 in the latter. Thus, 1 woman in 65 died in 1877, and 1 woman in 93 in 1878.*

Sickness and deaths in Children's Hospital.

96. In the Melbourne Hospital for sick children 273 cases were treated, and 17 deaths occurred in 1877; 356 cases were treated, and 19 deaths occurred in 1878. These numbers furnish proportions of 1 death to every 16 patients in the former, and 1 death to every 19 patients in the latter year.

Sickness and deaths in benevolent asylums.

97. Cases of sickness in benevolent asylums numbered 2,514 in 1877, and 2,554 in 1878; deaths numbered 157 and 175. The deaths were thus to the cases treated in the proportion of 1 to 16 in 1877, and 1 to 15 in 1878.

Sickness and deaths in Immigrants' Home.

98. In the Melbourne Immigrants Home the cases of sickness in 1877 amounted to 636, and the deaths to 70, or 1 death to every 9 cases of sickness. In 1878, the cases of sickness in this institution numbered 937, and the deaths 74, or 1 death to every 12 cases of sickness.

Sickness and deaths in orphan asylums.

99. In 1877 the cases of sickness in orphan asylums numbered 372 and the deaths 6. In 1878 these numbers were 389 and 5 respectively. Thus in 1877 1 death occurred to every 62 cases of sickness, and in 1878 1 death to every 78 cases of sickness.

Sickness and deaths in lunatic asylums.

100. In hospitals for the insane during 1877 the cases of sickness numbered 1,951, and during 1878 they numbered 1,696. The deaths amounted to 197 at the former period, and 177 at the

* Besides these deaths, which are of women only, 33 infants died in the institution in 1877, and 33 in 1878.

latter, or an average of 1 death to about every 10 cases of sickness at both periods.

Sickness and deaths in industrial schools.

101. The cases of sickness treated in the industrial and reformatory schools numbered 832 in 1877, and 15 deaths occurred. In 1878, 981 cases were treated, and 12 deaths took place. The deaths were, therefore, to the cases of disease in the proportion of 1 to every 55 in the former, and of 1 to every 82 in the latter year.

Sickness and deaths in gaols.

102. In gaols and penal establishments 5,078 cases of sickness occurred in 1877, and 5,270 in 1878. The deaths in these two years respectively were 37 and 29. Thus one death occurred to every 137 cases in 1877, and one death to every 182 cases in 1878. The proportions of deaths to cases of sickness are smaller in these than in any other public institutions; but it is also probable that the cases of sickness dealt with are, on the average, of a lighter character than those treated in the other institutions.

Deaths in public institutions.

103. Altogether the number of deaths in penal or charitable institutions in 1878 was 2,109, or 1 to every 6 deaths which took place in Victoria during the year. The deaths in such institutions were in 1877 in the proportion of 1 to 6, in 1876 in that of 1 to every $6\frac{1}{2}$, in 1875 in that of 1 to every $7\frac{1}{3}$, and in 1874 and 1873 in that of 1 to every 6 deaths which took place in the whole Colony. The following are the names of the institutions and the number of deaths which occurred in each during 1878:—

Deaths in Public Institutions, 1878.

	Number of Deaths.
General hospitals - - - -	1,554
Hospital for Diseases of Women and Children -	14
Lying-in Hospital - - - -	39*
Hospital for Sick Children - - -	19
Benevolent asylums - - - -	175
Melbourne Immigrants' Home - - -	74
Orphan asylums - - - -	5
Blind Asylum - - - - -	1
Hospitals for the insane - - -	177
Female refuges - - - -	10†
Industrial and reformatory schools - -	12
Gaols - - - - - -	25
Penal establishments - - - -	4
Total - -	2,109

Note.—In 1878 no death occurred in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, or the Eye and Ear Hospital.

* This includes the deaths of 33 children born in the institution.

† This includes the deaths of 7 children of imates of the Female Refuge, Madeline Street.

Vaccinations.

104. The number of cases of successful vaccination in 1878 was 21,778, and as the number of births was 26,581, it appears that 82 per cent. of the children born were vaccinated. Part of the remainder are accounted for by death. 1,593, or 6 per cent. of those born, having died before they were three months old, and 2,275, or 8½ per cent., before they were six months old. The vaccinations amounted in 1877 to 87 per cent. of the births, in 1876 to 80 per cent., in 1875 to 82 per cent., in 1874 to 83 per cent. and in 1873 to something less than 80 per cent.

Meteorology.

105. The following are the results of meteorological observations taken at the Melbourne Observatory (91·3 feet above sea level) in each of the 11 years ended with 1878:—

Meteorological Observations at Melbourne. Return for 11 *years.*

Year.	Temperature in the shade.			Mean Atmospheric pressure.	Days on which rain fell.	Amount of Rainfall.	Mean Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.
	Max.	Min.	Mean.					
	°	°	°	Inches.	No.	Inches.	° ′	° ′
1868 -	110	27	57	29·98	120	18·27	·70	5·7
1869 -	108	27	57	29·94	129	24·59	·71	6·0
1870 -	109	30	57	29·93	129	33·76	·74	5·8
1871 -	106	32	58	29·93	125	30·17	·74	5·9
1872 -	103	32½	58	29·92	136	32·52	·74	6·4
1873 -	102	30	58	29·94	134	25·61	·72	6·0
1874 -	103	29	57	29·93	134	28·10	·72	6·1
1875 -	110	31	57	29·89	158	32·87	·72	6·2
1876 -	111	29	57	29·93	134	24·04	·70	5·8
1877 -	101	31	57	29·99	124	24·10	·70	5·8
1878 -	103	31	57	29·90	116	25·36	·71	6·0

Temperature and rainfall.

106. It will be observed that the mean temperature in Melbourne is remarkably even from year to year. The diminished rainfall, and consequent drought, which occurred in 1878, and the two previous years; will be at once recognised; the number of days on which rain fell, moreover, was less in 1878 than in any of the previous 10 years.

Revenue, changes effected by legislation.

107. In the financial year ended with 30th June 1878 the revenue was diminished by about 85,000*l.*, in consequence of the transfer of four-fifths of the wharfage rates for the Port of Melbourne to the Harbour Trust, and by a net remission of about 26,000*l.* in Customs duties; but, on the other hand it was augmented by a land tax, which realised 50,000*l.*, and by a proportion of the amounts received for publicans' licenses, &c., which produced about 5,000*l.* A net deficiency of 56,000*l.* is thus attributable to the sources of revenue being disturbed by legislation.

Finance account, 1877–8.

108. The financial year commenced with a credit balance of 207,000*l.*, which not only wiped out a deficiency of 130,000*l.*, which occurred on the year's transactions, but also allowed of a

VICTORIA.

credit balance of 77,000*l.* being carried forward to the ensuing year. The exact figures are as follows: —

Finance Account, 1877–8.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Net receipts - - - - -	4,504,412	13	11
Net expenditure - - - - -	4,634,349	0	0
Expenditure in excess of receipts - -	129,936	6	1
Credit balance of 1876–7 brought forward -	206,888	0	5
Credit balance to carry forward to 1878–9 -	76,951	14	4

Recoups.

109. The receipts of 1876–7 were swelled to an unusual extent by recoups, which, though not strictly speaking reveuue, are included therein for the sake of convenience. This circumstance will account to a great extent for the difference between the revenue of that year and that of 1877–8, the addition to the latter from recoups having been comparatively slight, as will be seen by the following figures :—

Revenue and Recoups,† 1876–7, *and* 1877–8.

—	1876–7.	1877–8.
	£	£
Revenue proper - - -	4,513,738	4,485,412
Recoups - - - -	210,139	19,001
Total receipts - -	4,723,877	4,504,413

Excess of receipts, and contrary.

110. In only one year of the last five were the net receipts in excess of the net expenditure. The following figures show the surplus or deficiency in each of those years—the advances to be recouped from loans, and the recoups being left out of the account :—

—	Receipts in Excess of Expenditure.	Expenditure in Excess of Receipts.
	£	£
1873–4 - -	—	80,485
1874–5 - -	—	126,949
1875–6 - -	—	68,910
1876–7 - -	177,599	—
1877–8 - -	—	82,692

* The revenue and expenditure of 1878–9, made up whilst this digest was being prepared, but not audited, were as follows:—Revenue, 4,516,418*l.*, expenditure, 4,944,966*l.* The estimated mean population of the 12 months was 878,243; so that the revenue per head was 5*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure per head 5*l.* 12*s.* 7¼*d.*

† A recoup is a recovery of moneys advanced in previous years from the revenue. It is included in the revenue to balance a similar amount charged in the previous year. Such advances are usually voted by Parliament in anticipation of a loan.

111. According to these figures the transactions of the quinquennial period resulted in a net debit balance of 181,437*l.*

Amount of credit balance in five years.

112. Inclusive of recoups, the revenue of 1877–8 was less than that of 1876–7 by 219,464*l.*, but larger than that raised in any previous year. If, however, recoups be excluded, the difference between the revenues of the last two financial years will be reduced to 28,326*l.*; and if allowance be also made for changes in legislation, the income from sources of revenue common to the two years will be found to have been 28,000*l.* in favour of the year under review. The expenditure of 1877–8 was greater than that of 1876–7 by 276,253*l.*, and was the largest amount that had ever been expended in the Colony in one year.

Revenue and expenditure, 1877–8, and former years.

113. The revenue of 1877–8 amounted to 5*l.* 4*s.* 9¼*d.* and the expenditure to 5*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.* per head of the population.

Revenue and expenditure per head.

114. The revenue per head was less in the year under review than in the previous one, but was greater than in any other year since 1862. The expenditure per head in the year under review was exceeded in 1875–6, but was not equalled in any other year since 1862. In proportion to population, both revenue and expenditure declined pretty steadily year by year from 1862 to 1872–3, but in the latter year an augmentation took place, which has been maintained ever since.

Revenue and expenditure per head in various years.

115. The following are the heads of revenue in Victoria for the last two financial years, and the amounts received under each head. Recoups are added separately at the end of the table :—

Heads of revenue.

Heads of Revenue, 1876–7 *and* 1877–8.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.	
	1876–7.	1877–8.
	£	£
Customs	1,631,832	1,487,488
Excise	34,768	36,309
Ports and harbours	20,993	22,647
Licenses (business)	11,688	17,150
Duties on estates of deceased persons	44,103	72,500
„ on bank notes	27,248	26,672
Land tax	—	50,227
Mint, charges	7,512	7,247
„ subsidy returned	7,104	447
Land sales (including rents counting towards purchase money)	783,311	756,674
Rents of Crown lands (not counting towards purchase money)	208,872	186,337
Penalties under Land Acts	54,233	14,704
Railways	1,078,082	1,202,280
Water supply	100,219	104,819
Public works (exclusive of railways and water supply)	5,690	5,190
Posts and telegraphs	226,597	239,002
Fines, fees, and forfeitures (exclusive of Land Act penalties)	121,676	119,632

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.	
	1876–7.	1877–8.
Rents (ordinary) - - - -	730	824
Reimbursements in aid - - -	34,492	36,894
Interest and exchange - - -	95,106	78,080
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	19,482	20,329
Recoups - - -	4,513,738	4,485,412
	210,139	19,001
Total - - -	4,723,877	4,504,413

Customs revenue.

116. The following are the particulars of customs revenue received during the years 1876–7 and 1877–8; the increase or decrease in the latter year being also shown. It will be observed that the net falling off in the duties was 63,167*l.*, and that nearly all the items show decrease. It should be pointed out, however, that the deficiency, apart from that occasioned by changes in the tariff, amounted to only about 37,000*l.*, as against 24,000*l.* in the previous year. Of individual items, the revenue from tobacco exhibits the greatest falling off, the decrease during the last four years having averaged about 11,500*l.* per annum; the decrease from spirits, though great, is only half what it was in the previous year; sugar and hops also show large decreases:—

Customs Revenue, 1876–7 *and* 1877–8.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts received.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1876–7.	1877–8.		
	£	£	£	£
Spirits - - - -	499,568	489,236	—	10,332
Wine - - - -	39,139	37,893	—	1,246
Beer and cider - - -	30,352	29,346	—	1,006
Tobacco and snuff - - -	97,034	82,830	—	14,204
Cigars - - - -	16,929	17,639	710	—
Tea - - - -	69,907	69,628	—	279
Sugar and molasses - -	90,394	84,372	—	6,022
Coffee, chicory, cocoa, and chocolate	15,622	14,814	—	808
Opium - - - -	15,520	14,214	—	1,306
Rice - - - -	13,489	13,681	192	—
Hops - - - -	9,934	7,586	—	2,348
Malt - - - -	14,129	12,870	—	1,259
Dried and preserved fruits and vegetables.	42,994	43,714	720	—
Live stock - - - -	—	28,270	28,270	—
All other articles (including ad valorem duties).	567,784	513,466	—	54,318
Export duty on timber - -	—	69	69	—
Total -	1,522,795	1,459,628	—	Net Figs. 63,167
Wharfage rates - - -	109,037	27,820	—	81,217
Grand total -	1,631,832	1,487,448	—	Net Figs. 144,384

VICTORIA.

Heads of expenditure.

17. The following are the heads of expenditure during the last two financial years, and the amounts expended under each head. The expenditure of amounts subsequently to be recouped have been kept separate from the ordinary disbursements :—

Heads of Expenditure, 1876-7 *and* 1877-8.

Heads of Expenditure.	Amounts expended.	
	1876-7.	1877-8.
	£	£
Legislature	58,807	64,040
Civil establishment	102,444	101,175
Judicial and legal	171,682	171,065
Public instruction, science, &c.	490,409	519,175
Charitable institutions, medicinal, &c.	278,970	281,509
Mining	37,543	28,530
Police	197,371	207,119
Gaols and penal establishments	60,008	58,132
Mint	18,333	20,000
Crown lands and survey	164,011	150,248
Railways	562,517	616,207
Water supply	18,099	22,621
Public works*	552,987	562,505
Customs	56,186	64,058
Harbours and lights	29,980	29,017
Defences	74,020	121,266
Post and telegraphs	341,397	376,091
Retiring allowances, pensions, &c.	36,917	79,039
Interest	818,670	920,911
Civil list	29,604	29,564
Aborigines	7,500	7,464
Placed to railway loan liquidation and construction account	200,000	100,000
Miscellaneous services	28,684	38,368
	4,336,139	4,568,104
Expenditure of amounts to be recouped from loans, &c.	21,957	66,245
Total	4,358,096	4,634,349

Expenditure of loans.

118. The expenditure of sums raised by means of loans amounted to 610,924*l.* in 1876-7, and to 1,063,891*l.* in 1877-8.

Taxation.

119. The amounts of which revenue is made up are of two classes, viz., those raised by taxation and those raised otherwise. In Victoria the former class consists of customs and excise duties, wharfage rates, port and harbour dues, business licenses, duties on bank notes, duties on estates of deceased persons, and a land tax.† The latter class comprises amounts derived from the sale or occupation of crown lands, from railways, water supply, and other public works, from post and telegraph offices, from fees,

* Exclusive of school buildings and of all public works paid for out of loans. Including endowments of municipalities under the Local Government Act

† For amount under each of these heads during the last four years, *see* table following paragraph 127, *post.*

VICTORIA.

fines, and forfeitures, from the labour of prisoners, from the interest on the public account, &c. The following figures show the result of a division of the Victorian revenue for the financial year under review based upon this principle :—

Revenue of Victoria, 1877–8.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Amount raised by taxation -	1,712,952	14	11
,, otherwise -	2,791,459	19	0
Total - - -	4,504,412	13	11

Changes in taxation.

120. The changes which have taken place iu the taxes levied by the general Government in 1877–8, as compared with 1876–7, are as follow :—On the one hand a land tax has been levied, and a proportion of the amount received from publicans' license fees has been transferred from the local bodies to the State. These two items produced about 55,000*l.*, whereby the amount raised by taxation has been increased. On the other hand certain customs duties have been remitted, and four fifths of the wharfage rates levied at the port of Melbourne have been transferred to the Melbourne Harbour Trust, whereby the amount raised by taxation has been reduced by 111,000*l.* The difference between these two sums is 56,000*l.*, which represents the amount by which the taxation actually levied would have been exceeded if no measures affecting the sources of taxation had become law.

Proportion of revenue raised by taxation.

121. The proportion raised by taxation in1877–8 amounted to 38 per cent. of the total revenue, as compared with 37½ per cent. in 1876–7, and 41 per cent. in 1875–6.

Taxation per head.

122. The amount raised by taxation divided by the estimated mean population of the financial year 1877–8, gives an average of 1*l.* 19*s.* 10½*d.* to each individual.

Comparison of taxation 1877–8 with former years.

123. In 1877–8 the gross amount of taxation levied by the general Government was less than in 1876–7 by 57,732*l.*, and was also less than in any other year since 1871–2 ; and the average per head, although slightly greater than in the years 1864 to 1866 and 1870, was smaller than in any other year since 1852.

Municipal revenue and expenditure.

124. In connexion with the general revenue, taxation, and expenditure of Victoria, the revenue, taxation, and expenditure of local bodies should also be considered. These bodies are first the municipalities, and secondly the Melbourne Harbour Trust.

General and local revenue and expenditure.

125. A statement of the revenue and expenditure of the general government, added to those of the municipal government and those of the Melbourne Harbour Trust during the last two years, will be found in the following table. From the totals of municipal revenue and expenditure the amounts granted by the State have been deducted.

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure, 1877 *and* 1878.

	Total Amounts received and expended.	
	1877.	1878.
Revenue.	£	£
General government - -	4,723,876	4,504,413
Municipal government - -	674,436	639,428
Melbourne Harbour Trust - -	44,435	86,746
Total - -	5,442,747	5,230,587
Expenditure.		
General government - -	4,358,096	4,634,349
Municipal government - -	632,094	713,503
Melbourne Harbour Trust - -	16,940	92,136
Total - -	5,007,130	5,439,988

General and local revenue and expenditure per head.

126. The next table gives the general and local revenue and expenditure per head in the same two years. It will be observed that in 1878 the local revenue, embracing that of the municipal bodies and that of the harbour trust, amounted to nearly 17*s.* per head, and the general and local revenue combined to over 6*l.* per head.

General and Local Revenue and Expenditure, 1877 *and* 1878.

	Amounts received and expended per Head.	
	1877.	1878.
Revenue.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General government - -	5 12 6½	5 4 10
Municipal government - -	0 16 0¾	0 14 10½
Melbourne Harbour Trust - -	0 1 0¾	0 2 0¼
Total - -	6 9 8	6 1 9
Expenditure.		
General government - -	5 3 10	5 7 10½
Municipal government - -	0 15 0¾	0 16 7¼
Melbourne Harbour Trust - -	0 0 5	0 2 1¾
Total - -	5 19 3¾	6 6 7½

General and local taxation.

127. The amount of taxation under the general and municipal governments and under the Melbourne Harbour Trust is given in the following table for the same years, the items being specified in each case. The principle upon which the items of taxation are separated from the general revenue has been already explained. The local taxation is separated from the municipal revenue by rejecting—besides all grants received from the general government—rents of buildings and land, proceeds of the letting of halls,

&c., the balance being considered as taxation. The taxation levied by the Harbour Trust consists only of wharfage rates :—

General and Local Taxation, 1877 *and* 1878.

Heads of Taxation.	Amount received.	
	1877.	1878.
General Government Taxation.	£	£
Customs duties	1,522,795	1,459,628
Wharfage rates	109,037	27,820
Ports and harbours	20,993	22,647
Spirits distilled in Victoria	34,768	36,309
Licenses (not territorial)	11,688	17,150
Duties on estates of deceased persons	44,104	72,500
Duties on bank notes	27,248	26,672
Land tax	—	50,227
Toll receipts	52	—
Total	1,770,685	1,712,953
Municipal Government Taxation.		
Rates	381,580	401,208
Toll receipts	57,078	13,895
Licenses	108,367	102,732
Registration of dogs and goats	10,843	10,293
Market dues	32,742	32,776
Total	590,610	560,904
Melbourne Harbour Trust Taxation.		
Wharfage rates	43,106	84,731
Total general and local taxation	2,404,401	2,358,588

General and local taxation per head.

128. The aggregate amounts raised from the general and local taxation represented in 1877 a proportion of 2*l.* 17*s.* 3¼*d.*, and in 1878 a proportion of 2*l.* 14*s.* 10¾*d.* to each individual in the community.

Chief sources of taxation.

129. The greater portion of the general Government taxation is derived from customs duties, but the proportion from that source has been gradually decreasing from 89 per cent. in 1874–5 87 per cent. in 1875–6, 86 per cent. in 1876–7, to as low as 81 per cent. in the year under review. Seventy-one per cent. of the municipal government taxation in 1877–8, as against, 65, 61, and 63 per cent. respectively in the three previous years, was derived from rates.

Public debt.

130. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 30th June 1878* to 17,022,065*l.*, and consisted of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Debentures	15,993,220	0	0
Stock	1,028,844	16	5
Total	17,022,064	16	5

* On the 30th June 1879, the public debt amounted to 20,048,222*l.*

131. The debt was contracted for the following purposes:— Purposes for which debt was incurred.

	£	s.	d.
Construction of railways - -	13,515,885	18	0
Water supply, Melbourne and suburbs	462,771	0	0
Provincial water supply, graving dock, and other public works - -	2,343,407	18	5
Defences - - - -	100,000	0	0
State school buildings - - -	600,000	0	0
	17,022,064	16	5

132. The following are the rates of interest payable on the various amounts of which the debt is composed: — Rates of interest.

	£	s.	d.
6 per cent. - -	9,073,320	0	0
5 per cent. - -	2,419,900	0	0
4 per cent. - -	5,528,844	16	5
Total - -	17,022,064	16	5

133. On the 30th June 1878 the estimated population of Victoria was 867,634. If the amount of debt at the same period (17,022,065*l.*) be divided by this number, the proportionate indebtedness of each man, woman, and child in the Colony will be shown to have been 19*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.** Indebtedness per head.

134. The interest on the public debt represented a charge of 1*l.* 0*s.* 7¾*d.* per head of the mean population in 1877–8, as against a charge of 1*l.* 1*s.* 1¼*d.* per head in 1876–7. Interest on debt per head.

135. The interest on the public debt in the last two years amounted to nearly 20 per cent. of the revenue. Proportion of interest to revenue.

136. The expenses connected with the public debt, consisting chiefly of premium on remittances to London and commission, viz., ½ per cent. on interest payable thereat, amounted to 11,725*l.* in 1877–8, as against 8,483*l.* in the previous year. Expenses of debt.

137. During the last 28 years about 35,000,000*l.* sterling have been expended by the general Government on public works, including railways, roads, and bridges, Melbourne and country water supply, and other works and buildings. Of this amount over a million and a third was spent in 1878. The whole is exclusive of the sums expended by local bodies on public works, roads, &c., by the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Company and its predecessors on the construction and maintenance of their lines, and on the Port of Melbourne since the 1st Expenditure on public works.

* On the 30th June 1879 the public debt was 20,048,222*l.* At the same date the estimated population was 887,434. The amount of indebtedness per head was thus 22*l.* 11*s.* 9¾*d.*

VICTORIA.

January 1877. The following table gives the amounts expended by the State prior to and during 1878 :—

Government Expenditure on Public Works.

Public Works.	Amount expended.		
	Prior to 1878.	During 1878.	Total.
	£	£	£
Victorian railways - -	15,741,657	935,666	16,677,323
Roads and bridges - -	6,857,267	11,888	6,869,155
Melbourne water supply (Yan Yean) - - -	1,438,129	86,229	1,524,358
Other waterworks - -	1,740,232	34,512	1,774,744
Other public works - -	7,851,898	313,039	8,164,937
Total - - -	33,629,183	1,381,334	35,010,517

Victorian land law.

138. According to the land system in force in Victoria, an extent of land not exceeding 320 acres is allowed to be selected by one person. The selection is held under license for six years, within which period the licensee must reside on his selection at least five years, must enclose it, must cultivate 1 acre out of every 10 acres, and must generally effect improvements to the value of 20*s.* per acre. The rent payable during this period is 1*s.* per acre per annum, which is credited to the selector as part payment of the principal. At the expiration of the six years' license, the selector, if he obtain a certificate from the Board of Land and Works that he has complied with these conditions, may either purchase his holding by paying the balance of 14*s.* per acre, or may convert his license into a lease extending over 14 years, at an annual rental of 1*s.* per acre, which is also credited to the selector as part payment of the fee simple. On the expiry of this lease the land becomes the freehold of the selector. There is also a provision for the sale of Crown lands by auction at an upset price of 1*l.* per acre, or such higher sum as the Governor may direct, the whole amount to be so sold in any one year not to exceed 200,000 acres; also a provision for selection by persons who do not desire to reside on their land. In such cases, however, the rent is 2*s.* per acre, and the total price to be paid for the land 2*l.* per acre. Improvements to the value of 2*l.* per acre, moreover, have to be made during the six years' license, of which, at least, half must be made before the expiration of the third year. Such licenses are not to be issued in any one year for more than 200,000 acres.

Crown lands alienated to end of 1878.

139. The total extent sold up to the end of 1878 was 11,454,527 acres, and the extent granted without purchase was 4,107 acres. The whole area alienated in fee simple was thus 11,458,634 acres.

Crown lands selected.

140. The selected land of which the purchase had not been completed up to the end of the year amounted to 9,114,712 acres. Of this extent it is estimated that 2,050,000 acres had been

forfeited or abandoned and had reverted to the Crown. The remainder, representing approximately the whole area in process of alienation under deferred payments, amounted to 7,064,712 acres.

Crown lands unalienated.

141. According to the latest estimate, the total area of the Colony is 56,446,720 acres, and if from this be deducted the sum of the lands granted, sold, and selected, amounting to 18,523,346 acres, it will follow that the residue, representing the Crown lands neither alienated nor in process of alienation, amounted at the end of 1878 to 37,923,374 acres.

Public estate. 1878.

142. The whole of this residue, however, is not available for selection, for it embraces lands occupied by roads, the unsold portions of the sites of towns, the State forests, auriferous, pastoral, and timber reserves, and land which is at present useless, owing to its mountainous character or to its being covered with mallee scrub, lakes, or lagoons. Deducting these lands from the extent unalienated and unselected, already stated to have been 37,923,374 acres, it will be found that the area open for selection is narrowed to 11,422,885 acres. This will be at once seen by the following table, which shows the position of the public estate at the end of 1878:—

Public Estate of Victoria on 31*st December* 1878.

Condition of Land.	Number of Acres.
Land alienated in fee simple - - - - -	11,458,634
Land in process of alienation under deferred payments - -	7,064,712
Roads in connexion with the above - - - - -	1,035,301
Unsold land included in town reserves - - - -	300,000
Reserves in connexion with pastoral occupation (about) - -	350,000
Auriferous land* (about) - - - - - -	1,022,000
Auriferous land selected without right of purchase - - -	132,584
State forests not included in unavailable mountain ranges - -	243,000
Timber reserves - - - - - - -	417,604
Mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c. (about)	23,000,000
Area available for selection with right of purchase at end of 1878 -	11,422,885
Total area of Victoria - - -	56,446,720

Crown lands available for selection.

143. Omitting the 23,000,000 acres covered by mallee scrub, unavailable mountain ranges, lakes, lagoons, &c., the remainder of the Colony, amounting to 33,446,720 acres, or about 59 per cent. of the total area, may be said to be suitable for occupation. Of this extent, at the end of 1878, 18,523,346 acres, or 55 per cent., were already alienated or in process of alienation; 3,500,489 acres, or 10 per cent., were occupied by reserves; and 11,422,885 acres, or 35 per cent., were available for selection.

Extent available for selection, 1877 and 1878.

144. The difference between the extent available for selection at the end of 1877 and at the end of 1878 was 579,702 acres.

* This land may be selected without right of purchase under section 49 of the Land Act, 1869, in lots not exceeding 20 acres. The total extent so selected is shown in the next line.

VICTORIA.

The extent so available was equal at the former period to 21 per cent., and at the latter period to 20 per cent., of the whole area of the Colony.

Crown lands alienated, 1878.

145. The land alienated from the Crown in fee simple during 1878 amounted to 307,514 acres. Of this extent, 307,457 acres were sold, and 57 acres were granted without purchase. A gradual falling off in the area alienated annually has taken place since 1872; and in 1878 the extent alienated was less than in any year since 1868.

Crown lands sold by auction.

146. Of the area sold, 47,375 acres, or less than a seventh, was disposed of by auction. Nearly the whole of the remainder was in the first instance selected under the system of deferred payments. A smaller extent was sold by auction in 1878 than in any year since 1870, except 1873.

Amount realised on Crown land sales, 1878.

147. The amount realised for Crown lands sold in 1878 was 375,534*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* per acre. Of this sum, only 206,759*l.* was received during the year, the remainder having been paid in former years as rents and license fees. The proportion sold by auction realised 114,173*l.*, or an average of 2*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* per acre, and the proportion sold otherwise than at auction realised 261,361*l.*, or an average of 1*l.* 0*s.* 1¼*d.* per acre.

Amount realised 1836 to 1878.

148. From the period of the first settlement of the Colony to the end of 1878 the amount realised by the sale of Crown lands was 18,752,140*l.*, or at the rate of 1*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* per acre.

Area selected, 1878.

149. The area selected with right of purchase in 1878, which amounted to 1,389,955 acres, was greater than in any previous year except 1874. The average to each selector was 185 acres.

Squatting runs, number and area.

150. The squatting runs in 1878 numbered 768, or 33 less than in 1877. The area of Crown lands embraced in runs amounted in 1878 to 19,531,083 acres, or 1,323,532 acres less than in 1877.

Squatting runs, average size.

151. The average size of squatting runs was 26,036 acres in 1877, and 25,431 acres in 1878. This is exclusive of any purchased land attached thereto.

Rent of runs.

152. The rent of runs is assessed in accordance with the quantity of stock the land is estimated to be able to depasture, viz., 5*s.* yearly for each head of cattle or horses, or 1*s.* yearly for each sheep. In 1877 the amount of rent received was 138,475*l.*, or 1·594*d.* (a fraction over 1½*d.*) per acre; and in 1878 the amount of rent received was 122,142*l.*, or 1·501*d.* (1½*d.*) per acre.

Agricultural statistics.

153. The agricultural statistics of Victoria are collected by the municipal bodies who, under the Local Government Act, are required each year to furnish the Government Statist, on or before the 31st March, at their own cost, such agricultural and other statistics relating to their districts on such forms and in such manner as the Governor in Council may direct. All persons are required to give correct information to the best of their know-

ledge and belief, and should they fail to do so they render themselves liable to a penalty not exceeding 10*l*. Collectors divulging or making extracts from the information they receive, except under the special direction or authority of the Government Statist, also render themselves liable to a penalty of 10*l*.

Holdings visited by collectors.

154. The holdings which the collectors are required to visit are all blocks of alienated land above one acre in extent which are occupied for agricultural or pastoral purposes. Each distinct occupation is considered to be a holding, without reference to its proprietorship, and each of several holdings in different localities owned by one person is necessarily reckoned as a distinct holding.

Land in occupation.

155. The extent of land in occupation, of which a return is made, is always less than the whole area alienated and selected. The collectors are not required to take account of holdings of a smaller extent than one acre, nor of gardens or grounds attached to residences which are kept merely for ornament and pleasure, nor of any lands which show no signs of occupation, or which are used for other purposes than agriculture or the keeping of stock. It is, moreover, possible that in a few instances the collectors may not be aware of the existence of, and consequently may not penetrate to some isolated blocks of purchased land held in connexion with squatting stations at a distance from agricultural districts. The agricultural statistics for the present year account for over 86 per cent. of the extent alienated, and in process of alienation, at the end of 1878.

Land occupied and cultivated.

156. A statement of the number of holdings, and of the extent of land occupied and cultivated in the year under review, and the previous one, will be found in the following table. All the items show increase :—

Holdings and Land occupied, enclosed, and cultivated, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year ended 31st March	Number of Holdings larger than One Acre.	Acres occupied.	Acres under Tillage.
1878 - -	45,448	14,806,926	1,420,502
1879 - -	47,050	15,901,403	1,609,278
Increase -	1,602	1,094,477	188,776

Land under principal crops.

157. The following table shows the extent of land in Victoria placed under the principal crops in 1878 and 1879. An increase will be observed in the land under all these crops, except potatoes and hay. The extent under potatoes in 1879 was less than in any of the previous 10 years, except 1869 and 1875, but that

VICTORIA.

under hay, though less than in 1878, was greater than in any previous year. During the past three years wheat was more extensively cultivated than formerly. Prior to 1877 the extent under that crop never reached 400,000 acres :—

Land under Principal Crops, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year ended 31st March	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1878 - -	564,564	105,234	19,116	37,107	176,951	390,330
1879 - -	691,622	134,428	22,871	36,527	172,799	401,427
Increase -	127,058	29,194	3,755	—	—	11,097
Decrease -	—	—	—	580	4,152	—

Produce of principal crops.

158. The gross produce of the same crops, except green forage, is shown as follows for 1878 and 1879. It will be observed that the yield of wheat and potatoes was less in the latter year than in the former, but the reverse was the case as regards oats, barley, and hay. More wheat, however, was produced in 1879 than in any previous year except 1878, but the gross produce of the potato crop was less than in any year since 1869 :—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year ended 31st March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1878 - - -	7,018,257	2,040,486	378,706	115,419	208,151
1879 - - -	6,060,737	2,366,026	417,157	98,958	209,028
Increase -	—	325,540	38,451	—	877
Decrease -	957,520	—	—	16,461	—

Yield of principal crops, 1869 to 1879.

159. The following table shows the acreable yield of the five principal crops during each of the last 11 years, also the average during the whole period. The average of wheat in 1878–9 was the lowest on record; that of oats was exceeded in every year of the previous decenniad except 1871 ; that of barley in all the years

except 1869 and 1871; that of potatoes in all the years except 1869; and that of hay in all the years except 1869 and 1878 :—

Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1869 *to* 1879.

Year ended 31st March	Average Produce per Acre of				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1869 - -	16·28	19·65	15·23	2·21	1·09
1870 - -	19·75	25·98	24·55	3·09	1·60
1871 - -	10·10	14·98	12·26	3·27	1·13
1872 - -	13·45	18·76	20·00	3·22	1·40
1873 - -	16·51	19·55	20·86	3·45	1·32
1874 - -	13·58	15·69	19·84	2·86	1·27
1875 - -	14·57	18·46	21·01	3·53	1·32
1876 - -	15·49	21·92	22·20	3·37	1·33
1877 - -	13·15	19·91	21·18	3·31	1·22
1878 - -	12·41	19·39	19·81	3·11	1·18
1879 - -	8·76	17·60	18·24	2·71	1·21
Average of 11 years	13·39	19·28	19·93	3·04	1·27

Imports and exports of breadstuffs, 1837 to 1878.

160. The imports and exports of breadstuffs during the 42 years 1837 to 1878 are set down in the following table. It will be observed that, after deducting the value of the quantities sent away, there remains a balance amounting to $11\frac{1}{3}$ millions sterling, paid by the Colony for breadstuffs imported :—

Imports and Exports of Breadstuffs, 1837 *to* 1878.

Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit.	Quantity.	Value.
	Bushels.	£
Imported, 1837 to 1878 - - -	32,018,849	13,702,290
Exported - - - - -	7,030,166	2,336,123
Imports in excess of Exports - -	24,988,683	11,366,167

Proportion of land under each crop.

161. Of every 1,000 acres cultivated during the past season 430 acres were placed under wheat, 84 under oats, 14 under barley, 23 under potatoes, 107 under hay, 249 under green forage, and 93 under other kinds of crops. The tendency of late years has been to crop a larger extent of land, relatively to the whole area under tillage, with wheat, and a smaller extent with the remaining crops.

Minor crops.

162. In addition to the principal crops of which mention has been made, various descriptions of minor crops are also raised. It is not, however, presumed that the whole of such crops, or the full measure to which they are grown, is recorded by the collectors. It is certain that they are often raised in gardens, in which case the different kinds would not be distinguished in the returns. It is also probable that they may be sometimes grown upon allotments of a smaller extent than one acre, which the collectors are not called upon to visit. The following list must therefore be

VICTORIA.

looked upon as indicating the nature of certain minor crops grown in Victoria rather than the extent to which those crops have been cultivated during the past season :—

*Minor Crops,** 1878–9.

Nature of Crop.	Acreage and Yield.	Nature of Crop.	Acreage and Yield.
Arrowroot, acres - -	4	Olives, acres - -	20
„ cwt. - -	67	Onions, acres - -	1,069
Beet, carrots, parsnips, and cabbage, acres - -	402	„ tons - -	3,600
Beet, carrots, parsnips, and cabbage, tons - -	1,272	Opium poppies, acres -	3
Broom millet, acres - -	6	„ heads -	60,000
Canary, acres - -	4	Peas and beans, acres -	15,153
„ bushels - -	150	„ „ bushels -	248,436
Chicory, acres - -	155	Pumpkins, melons, &c. acres	205
„ tons - -	653	„ „ tons -	1,190
Flax, acres - - -	4	Rape for seed, acres -	2
Radish, acres - -	4	„ bushels -	25
„ lbs. - -	672	Raspberries, acres - -	45
Grass seeds, acres - -	2,824	„ cwt. - -	476
„ bushels - -	34,432	Rhubarb, acres - -	3
Green peas, acres - -	37	„ tons - -	10
„ tons - -	50	Rye and bere, acres -	1,779
Hops, acres - - -	203	„ „ bushels -	20,816
„ lbs. - - -	130,816	Sheeps' parsley, acres	3
Lucerne for seed, acres -	3	„ lbs. -	1,000
„ „ bushels -	16	Strawberries, acres -	24
Maize, acres - - -	1,939	„ cwt. - -	323
„ bushels - -	40,754	Tobacco, acres - -	1,936
Mangold-wurzel, acres -	888	„ cwt. - -	15,662
„ tons -	8,275	Tomatoes, acres - -	3
Mulberry trees, acres -	18	„ cwt. - -	220
„ number -	12,460	Turnips, acres - -	310
Mustard, acres - -	39	„ tons - -	1,349
„ cwt. - -	121	Vines, acres - -	4,434
		„ wine, galls. - -	410,333
		„ brandy, galls. -	1,561

Vines.

163. Although the acreage under vines in 1878–9 was slightly greater than in the previous year, the wine produced was less by over 47,000 gallons. The great falling-off of late years, not only in the acreage under vines, but also in the quantity of wine produced, is very noticeable ; thus, in 1875–6, when there were 5,000 acres under vines, the wine produced amounted to 755,000 gallons, whilst in the three succeeding years, with areas varying from 4,400 to 4,800 acres, the wine produced annually amounted to only between 400,000 and 500,000 gallons. This result is due mainly to the effects of the oïdium, phylloxera, and other diseases to which the vine is subject, but there is also no doubt that, in consequence of the importation and subsequent multiplication of frugivorous birds, especially sparrows, more grapes are now destroyed by birds than there were formerly. It is right, however, to point out that this part of the statistics is not quite so reliable as the other portions, since, as grapes come to maturity later than

* Exclusive of those grown in gardens.

the other crops of which returns are made, only the acreage under vines can be returned for the year to which the remainder of the statistics relate, and the grape crop is necessarily that of the previous season. This partial dealing with the returns of two years may sometimes cause confusion in the minds of the vine growers, who may also not always remember the exact particulars of their previous year's crop.

Mulberry and olive grounds, &c.

164. Twenty acres under olives and 18 acres under mulberry trees were also returned in the year under review. The mulberry trees numbered 12,460, and are grown for the purpose of feeding and rearing silkworms, this being an industry which, so far as it has gone, has been attended with great success in Victoria. No particulars respecting the olive crop are given. Mulberry and olive trees are frequently grown in gardens; and there is no doubt that both are much more extensively cultivated than the agricultural statistics indicate. This is also the case with raspberries and strawberries, as well as the vegetable crops. Osiers, for basket making are often grown in swamps and on the banks of streams. They are usually planted in small patches which do not come under the notice of the collectors of statistics. This is probably the reason that whereas five acres were returned in 1876–7 and three acres the year before, no returns of osiers were made in the last two years.

Gardens and orchards.

165. The land under gardens amounted to 12,131 acres, and that under orchards to 8,269 acres in 1879. No return is made of the nature of the crops grown or the quantity of produce raised. There was a decrease during the year in the area under gardens, but an increase in that under orchards, resulting in a net increase of 830 acres.

Value of agricultural produce.

166. Subjoined is an estimate of the value of the crops raised during the year ended 31st March 1879. It will be seen the total amount was not far short of 5,000,000*l.* sterling:—

Value of Agricultural Produce, 1878–9.

Name of Crop.	Gross Produce and Price.		Estimated Value.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wheat - - -	6,060,737 bushels	at 0 4 2	1,262,653 10 10
Oats - - - -	2,366,026 „	at 0 3 6	414,054 11 0
Barley - - -	417,157 „	at 0 4 1	85,169 11 1
Other cereals - - -	310,006 „	at 0 4 6	69,751 4 0
Potatoes - - -	98,958 tons	at 4 12 4	456,856 2 0
Other green crops - -	14,496 „	at 5 0 0	72,480 0 0
Hay - - - -	209,028 „	at 3 15 0	783,855 0 0
Green forage - - -	401,427 acres	at 3 0 0	1,204,281 0 0
Tobacco - - -	15,662 cwt.	at 2 16 0	43,853 12 0
Grapes, not made into wine -	10,818 „	at 1 0 0	10,818 0 0
Wine - - - -	410,333 gallons	at 0 4 0	82,066 12 0
Brandy - - -	1,561 „	at 0 10 0	780 10 0
Other crops - - -	3,625 acres	at 5 0 0	18,125 0 0
Garden and orchard produce -	20,400 „	at 20 0 0	408,000 0 0
	Total - -		4,912,744 12 11

VICTORIA.

Hands employed in agricultural and pastoral pursuits.

167. A decrease took place in the number of males employed in agricultural and pastoral holdings in 1879 as compared with the number returned in the previous year, but this was more than counterbalanced by the increase in the number of females. The following are the figures for the past two years :—

Hands employed on Farms, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year ended 31st March	Males.	Females.	Total.
1878 - - -	72,400	30,464	102,864
1879 - - -	71,954	31,566	103,520
Increase - - -	—	1,102	656
Decrease - - -	446	—	—

Live stock.

168. The live stock in Victoria was returned as follows for the last two years. An increase will be observed in the number of horses and milch cows, but a falling off in the number of sheep and pigs, and in the number of cattle used for other than dairying purposes :—

Live Stock, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year ended 31st March	Horses.	Cattle.			Sheep.	Pigs.
		Milch Cows.	Exclusive of Milch Cows.	Total.		
1878 -	203,150	268,110	901,466	1,169,576	10,118,867	183,391
1879	210,105	290,407	894,436	1,184,843	9,379,276	177,373
Increase -	6,955	22,297	—	15,267	—	—
Decrease -	—	—	7,030	—	739,591	6,018

Live stock in 1879 and previous years.

169. The numbers of horses and cattle generally increase from year to year, and those returned in 1879 were greater than in any previous year; but this has not been the case of late years as regards sheep, and the number of pigs fluctuates considerably. The largest number of sheep ever returned was in 1876; since then, however, there has been a rapid falling off, and the number in the year under review was smaller than in any year since 1867.

VICTORIA.

Value of pastoral produce.

170. The following is an estimate of the gross value of pastoral produce raised on holdings of all descriptions in 1878–9.

Gross Value of Pastoral Produce, 1878–9.

Nature of Produce.	Value.
	£
Milk, butter, and cheese, from average number of milch cows kept, viz., 290,407 at 8*l.* 10*s.*	2,468,460
Estimated net numbers of stock slaughtered in 1878 :-	
Cattle, 174,429 at 8*l.*	1,395,432
Sheep, 1,204,306 at 10*s.*	602,153
Pigs, 93,188 at 2*l.* 10*s.*	232,970
Estimated value of produce of horse stock, 10,505 at 8*l.*	84,040
Excess of exports over imports of wool, customs value	3,447,451
Estimated value of wool used in the Colony for manufacturing purposes, 1,730,118 lbs. at 1*s.* 6*d.*	129,759
Total	8,360,265

Machinery and improvements on farms.

171. The returns show a large increase in the year under review as compared with the previous one in the use of steam machinery on farms; also an increase in the value of improvements made, but a slight diminution in the value of machines and implements. The improvements to which reference is made are buildings of all descriptions, fencing, dips, wells, dams, &c., but the cost of clearing or cropping land is not given. The following are the figures:—

Steam Engines, and Value of Implements and Machines, and of Improvements on Farms, 1878 *and* 1879.

Year ended 31st March.	Steam Engines.		Value of Implements and Machines.	Value of Improvements.
	Number.	Horse-power.		
			£	£
1878	326	2,484	2,031,514	16,809,417
1879	385	2,994	2,025,916	16,845,527
Increase	59	510	—	36,110
Decrease	—	—	5,598	—

Manufactories.

172. Particulars respecting the manufactories and works of all descriptions, according to the returns of the two last years, will be found in the following table. It will be noticed that the total number of establishments was less by 27 in 1879 than in the previous year, but a slight increase appears in the other items. The number of establishments using steam increased by 11, and the amount of horse power by 366, the hands employed

by 590, and the capital invested in lands, buildings, machinery, and plant by 133,096*l.*:—

Manufactories, Works, &c. 1878 *and* 1879.

Year ended 31st March.	Total Number of Establishments.	Number of Establishments using Steam.	Horse-power of Engines.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery and Plant.*
					£
1878 -	2,370	897	12,698	32,688	6,665,540
1879 -	2,343	908	13,064	33,278	6,798,636
Increase -	—	11	366	590	133,096
Decrease -	27	—	—	—	—

Names of manufactories.

173. The manufacturing establishments of all kinds respecting which returns were obtained in 1879 are named in the following table; also the number of hands employed, and the approximate value of plant, lands, and buildings. The establishments are for the most part of an extensive character, the only exception being in cases where the existence of industries of an unusual or interesting nature might seem to call for notice. No attempt is made to enumerate mere shops, although some manufacturing industry may be carried on thereat. Were this done, the "manufactories" in the Colony might be multiplied to an almost indefinite extent. It is customary to note all establishments where machinery worked by steam, water, wind, or horse-power is used.

Manufactories, Works, &c., 1879.

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
BOOKS AND STATIONERY.			£
Account book manufactories, manufacturing stationers - - - - -	6	545	61,117
Printing establishments - -	55	1,778	269,877
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Organ building establishments - -	1	15	2,450
Pianoforte manufactories - - -	8	32	7,400
PRINTS, PICTURES, &C.			
Picture-frame makers, carvers, and gilders -	11	66	25,160

* In the case of establishments standing upon Crown lands, no estimate of the value of the land is given. The number of such establishments was 266 in 1878, and 232 in 1879.

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
CARVING, FIGURES, &c.			
India-rubber stamp manufactories - -	3	8	2,870
Modelling (architectural and figure), &c. works	5	16	9,360
Turnery works - - - -	12	35	8,150
Wood carving and ornamental works - -	3	8	1,115
DESIGNS, MEDALS, AND DIES.			
Diesinkers, engravers, medallists, trade mark makers - - - - -	6	40	6,173
PHILOSOPHICAL INSTRUMENTS, &c.			
Philosophical instrument manufactories -	6	15	3,579
Spectacles manufactory - - -	1	2	470
SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.			
Surgical instrument, truss manufactories -	6	24	3,968
ARMS, AMMUNITION, &c.			
Blasting powder, dynamite, &c. manufactories	5	57	10,450
Fuze manufactories - - - -	1	13	500
Gun makers - - - - -	8	29	8,175
MACHINES, TOOLS, AND IMPLEMENTS.			
Agricultural implement manufactories -	44	939	95,206
Bellows manufactories - - -	2	13	1,270
Cutlery, machine tool manufactories - -	10	29	7,145
Engine, machine manufactories - -	46	1,595	355,292
CARRIAGES AND HARNESS.			
Coach, waggon, &c. manufactories - -	139	1,580	191,476
Saddle harness manufactories - - -	40	379	54,885
Saddlers' ironmongery and coach-spring manufactories - - - -	5	23	3,430
Whip manufactories - - - -	4	29	2,475
SHIPS AND BOATS.			
Ships' boat builders - - - -	17	90	7,210
Ships' wheels, blocks, &c. manufactories -	3	10	2,775
Floating docks, Graving docks, Patent slips - - - - -	5	104	425,668
HOUSES, BUILDINGS, &c.			
Lime works - - - - -	23	145	10,276
Patent ceiling ventilator manufactory -	1	4	700
Roof-covering composition manufactory -	1	3	520

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Appproximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
FURNITURE.			
Bedding and upholstery manufactories	17	119	21,189
Cabinet works, including billiard table makers	42	628	66,929
Earth-closet manufactories	2	16	4,390
Iron safe manufactories	2	7	710
Looking glass manufactories	3	33	5,042
CHEMICALS.			
Chemical works	5	70	38,950
Dye works	13	80	14,570
Essential oil manufactories	2	4	1,070
Ink, blacking, blue, washing powder, &c. manufactories	8	129	14,420
Paint, varnish manufactories	1	4	800
Salt works	5	66	4,320
Tar-distilling, asphalte works	4	34	5,060
TEXTILE FABRICS.			
Woollen mills	9	817	210,684
DRESS.			
Boot manufactories	71	2,615	104,145
Clothing factories	63	3,988	180,939
Fur manufactories	4	33	3,360
Hat, cap manufactories	19	275	29,410
Oilskin, waterproof clothing manufactories	4	33	3,100
Umbrella and parasol manufactories	6	28	5,370
FIBROUS MATERIALS.			
Jute factories	1	125	23,600
Rope, twine works	15	319	61,919
ANIMAL FOOD.			
Cheese factories	23	66	15,534
Meat-curing establishments	15	297	52,455
VEGETABLE FOOD.			
Biscuit manufactories	13	365	41,350
Confectionery works	9	167	29,485
Flour mills	149	708	440,070
Jam manufactories	10	244	25,437
Maccaroni works	2	5	525
Maizena, oatmeal, starch manufactories	2	3	2,000
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS.			
Aërated waters, ginger beer, liqueur, &c. works	104	584	112,338
Breweries	102	897	463,748
Coffee, chocolate, spice works	11	144	57,650
Chicory mills	1	3	2,020

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
DRINKS AND STIMULANTS—*cont.*			
Distilleries	6	41	43,550
Malthouses	13	66	59,670
Sauce, pickle manufactories	5	43	6,550
Sugar refineries	1	180	200,000
Tobacco, cigars, snuff manufactories	16	927	94,905
Vinegar works	3	18	5,520
ANIMAL MATTERS.			
Boiling-down establishments	19	73	12,785
Bone-cutting mills	1	4	510
Bone manure manufactories	13	83	25,592
Brush manufactories	6	134	14,630
Curled hair manufactories	2	9	1,450
Wool-washing establishments	11	152	19,845
Flock manufactories	3	20	6,070
Glue, oil manufactories	7	34	8,530
Morocco fancy leather manufactories	2	10	1,120
Portmanteau, trunk manufactories	9	46	12,415
Soap, candle, tallow works	31	461	120,002
Tanneries and fellmongeries	118	1,531	252,587
VEGETABLE MATTERS.			
Bark mills	7	67	9,675
Basket-making works	11	46	6,945
Blind (window) manufactories	10	74	8,175
Broom manufactories	1	15	2,000
Chaff-cutting, corn-crushing works	174	644	159,858
Cooperage works	15	105	14,325
Cork manufactories	3	17	4,045
Fancy box manufactories	3	36	3,025
Hat-box manufactories	2	8	1,700
Ladders and steps joinery	1	3	590
Moulding, framing, turning, and saw mills	145	2,538	312,599
Paper manufactories	2	177	56,106
Paper-bag manufactories	5	139	16,585
Tent, tarpaulin, manufactories	10	58	7,692
COAL.			
Gas works	17	315	915,374
STONE, CLAY, EARTHENWARE, AND GLASS.			
Brickyards and potteries	198	922	163,403
Filter manufactories	2	6	1,060
Glass manufactories, works	3	134	15,846
Glass works	7	41	6,020
Marble and monumental works	26	254	32,212
Stone-breaking works	5	115	9,130
Stone-sawing, polishing works	3	54	12,960
WATER.			
Ice manufactories	2	22	9,300

Description of Manufactory, Work, &c.	Number of Establishments.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
			£
GOLD, SILVER, AND PRECIOUS STONES.			
Electro-plating and gilding works - -	5	19	3,905
Goldsmiths, jewellers, and watchmakers (manufacturing).	27	346	44,665
Lapidary - - - - -	1	2	1,150
Nickel-plating works - - - -	1	5	1,950
METALS OTHER THAN GOLD AND SILVER.			
Antimony smelting works - - -	2	35	10,350
Bell foundry - - - - -	1	2	505
Iron and tin works - - - -	70	834	139,810
Iron, brass, and copper foundries - -	91	1,752	289,453
Lead works - - - - -	2	20	18,950
Tin-smelting works - - - -	1	3	200
Type foundry - - - -	1	3	2,700
Wire-working establishments - - -	9	53	8,980
Total - - -	2,343	33,278	6,798,636

Summary of manufactories.

174. Summarised particulars respecting these manufactories are given for the year under review and the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads in the following table. Greatly increased numbers at each successive period will be observed in all the columns, the augmentation shown being no doubt almost entirely due to the starting of fresh works and the extension of old ones. It is possible, however, that in consequence of the greater care exercised of late years by the collectors in returning every establishment, an appearance of increase may have sometimes resulted without any actual increase having occurred. The number of manufactories increased by 37 per cent. between the first and second periods, and by 30 per cent. between the second and third periods; the hands employed increased by 47 per cent. and 36 per cent.; and the value of lands, buildings, machinery, and plant, increased by 35 per cent. and 51 per cent.

Summary of Manufactories, Works, &c., 1869, 1874, *and* 1879.

Year ended 31st March.	Total Number of Establishments.	Number of Establishments using Steam.	Horse-power of Engines.	Number of Hands employed.	Approximate Value of Lands, Buildings, Machinery, and Plant.
1869 -	1,314	554	9,259	16,612	3,329,605
1874 -	1,803	771	11,310	24,411	4,498,209
1879 -	2,343	908	13,064	33,278	6,798,636

VICTORIA.

175. The quantity of gold raised in Victoria during the two last years is shown in the following table:

Gold raised, 1877 and 1878.

Quantity and Value of Gold raised in 1877 *and* 1878.

Year.	Gold raised in Victoria.	
	Estimated Quantity.	Estimated Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	oz.	£
1877 - -	809,653	3,238,612
1878 - -	775,272	3,101,088
Decrease -	34,381	137,524

Gold raised, 1870 to 1878.

176. The following figures give an estimate of the quantity of gold raised in 1870 and each subsequent year. It will be seen that since 1871 the yield of gold has been steadily decreasing:—

Estimated Quantity of Gold raised, 1870 *to* 1878.

	oz.
1870 - - - -	1,222,798
1871 - - - -	1,355,477
1872 - - - -	1,282,521
1873 - - - -	1,241,205
1874 - - - -	1,155,972
1875 - - - -	1,095,787
1876 - - - -	963,760
1877 - - - -	809,653
1878 - - - -	775,272

Gold raised, 1851 to 1878.

177. Carrying on to the end of 1878 the calculations given in previous reports, the following may be estimated as the total quantity and value of the gold raised in Victoria from the period of its first discovery in 1851. These figures give an average per annum during the whole period of about 1,716,000 oz., or more than twice the quantity raised in 1878:—

Estimated Total Quantity and Value of Gold raised in Victoria, 1851 *to* 1878.

Gold raised in Victoria.	Estimated Quantity.	Estimated Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	oz.	£
Prior to 1878 - - -	47,283,377	189,133,508
During 1878 - - -	775,272	3,101,088
Total - -	48,058,649	192,234,596

VICTORIA.

Value of gold. per miner.

178. The estimated value of gold raised in proportion to the number of miners at work was slightly greater in 1878 than in 1877, but much less than in any other year since 1870. The following figures, which have been taken from the reports of the Secretary for Mines, express this proportion for each of the last nine years:—

*Value of Gold per Miner,** 1870 *to* 1878.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1870 - - -	81	0	6·46
1871 - - -	93	6	0·62
1872 - - -	93	17	1·47
1873 - - -	93	16	2·62
1874 - - -	99	8	3·07
1875 - - -	104	4	4·02
1876 - - -	89	19	6·84
1877 - - -	82	6	1·69
1878 - - -	82	12	11·38

Gold derived from alluvial and quartz workings.

179. It is estimated that in 1878, 500,637 oz., or 65 per cent. of the gold exported and minted, was obtained from quartz reefs, and 268,232 oz., or 35 per cent., was obtained from alluvial deposits. In the previous year it was estimated that 64 per cent. of the gold was raised from quartz, and 36 per cent. from alluvial mines.

Steam engines used in mining.

180. Of the steam engines employed in connexion with gold mining, about a fourth are used on alluvial, and three fourths on quartz workings. The following is the number of engines in use, and their horse power, in each of the last six years. It will be noticed that a slight falling off has taken place from year to year.

Steam Engines used in Gold Mining, 1873 *to* 1878.

—	Number.	Horse-power.	—	Number.	Horse-power.
1873 -	1,151	25,100	1876	1,081	23,947
1874 -	1,141	24,866	1877	1,067	23,416
1875 -	1,101	24,224	1878 -	1,036	22,711

Mining machinery

181. The number of mining machines of all descriptions fell from 4,540 in 1877 to 4,428 in 1878; and the value of such

* These amounts are sometimes incorrectly spoken of as the "average earnings" of the miners. As a very large proportion of the miners are working on wages, the gold they raise no more represents their individual earnings than do the products of a manufactory represent the earnings of its operatives.

machines decreased from 2,029,962*l.* in 1877 to 1,903,494*l.* in 1878. VICTORIA.

182. The number of quartz reefs proved to be auriferous was 3,328 in 1877, and 3,402 in 1878; these, however, cannot in every case be distinct reefs, as parts of the same reef in different localities are often held to be independent veins, and named accordingly; and, moreover, as the lines of reef are further explored it is found that what were supposed to be separate reefs are in reality not distinct. Auriferous reefs.

183. The area of auriferous ground worked upon was approximately 1,185½ square miles in 1877, and 1,290 in 1878. The figures are derived from estimates, not from actual surveys, and they vary from year to year. As the shallow alluviums of the older gold fields are abandoned by the miners they are often occupied by agriculturists and gardeners, and ground which one year is included in the area embraced in gold workings is properly excluded in another. Extent of auriferous ground.

184. It is impossible to obtain an exact statement of the yield of auriferous quartz in any year, owing to the fact that many of the owners of machines for crushing quartz are unable to give, or are precluded from giving information respecting their operations. Particulars, however, have been obtained respecting the crushing of 965,574 tons in 1877, and 874,717 tons in 1878. The average yield per ton of these crushings was 9 dwt. 9·38 gr. in the former, and 9 dwt. 12·99 gr. in the latter year. From similar estimates extending over a series of years and embodying information respecting the crushing of more than 15,000,000 tons of quartz, an average is furnished of 11 dwt. 1·08 gr. of gold to the ton of quartz crushed. Average yield of quartz.

185. In 1878, for the first time since the early gold discoveries, some of the shafts sunk in Victoria in search of auriferous quartz have attained depths exceeding 2,000 feet from the surface. Two at Stawell are 2,032 feet and 2,014 feet respectively; the deepest shaft at Sandhurst appears to be 1,458 feet, and the deepest at Ballarat 1,114 feet. The yield of gold from 16,734 tons of quartz obtained at Stawell at depths varying from 500 to 1,180 feet averaged from 17 dwt. 8 gr. to 2 oz. 10 dwt. per ton. Deep quartz mining.

186. Since the first issue of gold mining leases the total number granted has been 10,648, giving the right to mine over an area amounting in the aggregate to 193,902 acres. Of these leases, 227, for 4,261 acres, were granted in 1878, and 1,176, for 16,840 acres, were in force at the end of that year. Gold-mining leases.

187. The number of gold mining companies registered in 1878 was 81. The number of shares was 1,035,968, and the nominal capital 791,960*l.* In the previous quinquenniad 789 mining companies were registered, with 12,659,936 shares, and a nominal capital amounting in the aggregate to 9,903,763*l.* Gold-mining companies.

VICTORIA.

Minerals other than gold raised.

188. The following are the estimated values of metals and minerals other than gold raised in Victoria from 1851 to the end of 1878. Of these productions the value in 1878 amounted to 63,914*l.*:—

Value of Metals and Minerals other than Gold, 1851 *to* 1878.

	£
Silver - - - -	31,885
Tin - - - -	343,775
Copper - - - -	44,640
Antimony - - - -	153,169
Lead - - - -	4,892
Iron - - - -	2,916
Coal - - - -	13,505
Lignite - - - -	2,367
Kaolin - - - -	7,444
Flagging - - - -	45,768
Slates - - - -	940
Gypsum - - - -	5
Magnesite - - - -	12
Ores, mineral, earthy clays, &c., unenumerated - - -	4,802
Diamonds - - - -	107
Sapphires, &c. - - -	630
Total - - -	£656,857

Value of mining produce.

189. The estimated value of the produce raised from Victorian mines and quarries in 1878 was as follows:—

Value of Mining Produce, 1878.

	£
Value of gold raised - - -	3,101,088
„ other metals and minerals -	63,914
„ stone raised from quarries -	46,988
	£3,211,990

Agricultural, pastoral, and mining produce.

190. The estimated value of the agricultural, pastoral, and mining produce raised in Victoria during each of the last five years is given in the following table. It should be borne in mind that the prices of agricultural and pastoral produce, on which the value mainly depends, fluctuate from year to year. In 1878 these prices

were below the average. In all the years the value of the pastoral produce exceeded that of the other two industries combined :—

Value of Agricultural, Pastoral, and Mining Produce, 1874 *to* 1878.

Year.	Estimated Value of			Total.
	Agricultural Produce.	Pastoral Produce.	Mining Produce.	
	£	£	£	£
1874 -	4,410,436	9,840,562	4,740,679	18,991,677
1875 -	4,835,894	9,541,551	4,475,876	18,853,321
1876 -	5,574,239	10,069,570	3,949,135	19,592,948
1877 -	5,792,898	8,652,471	3,322,264	17,767,633
1878 -	4,912,745	8,360,265	3,211,990	16,485,000

191. The patents for inventions applied for in 1878 numbered 147, as against 145 in the previous year. Since 1854 the total number of patents applied for has been 2,628. Patents.

192. The Victorian Copyright Act (33 Vict. No. 350) came into force in December 1869. Since then the following copyrights have been registered. Copyrights.

Copyrights 1870 *to* 1878.

Subject of Copyright.	Copyrights Registered.		
	Prior to 1878.	During 1878.	Total.
Designs.			
Articles of manufacture, chiefly of—			
Metals - - - - - -	119	8	127
Wood, stone, cement, or plaster - - -	34	1	35
Glass - - - - - -	3	1	4
Earthenware - - - - -	1	1	2
Ivory, bone, papier-maché, &c. - -	8	4	12
Woven fabrics - - - - -	10	—	10
Miscellaneous - - - - -	12	—	12
Literary Productions.			
Literary works - - - - -	622	59	681
Dramatic „ - - - - -	29	10	39
Musical „ - - - - -	63	1	64
Works of Art.			
Paintings - - - - - -	2	1	3
Drawings - - - - - -	11	—	11
Engravings - - - - - -	569	21	590
Photographs - - - - - -	661	98	759
Total -	2,144	205	2,349

VICTORIA.

Imports, exports, and trade, 1878.

193. The total declared value of imports in 1878 was 16,161,880*l.*, and that of exports 14,925,707*l.* The excess of imports over exports was thus 1,236,173*l.*, and the total value of external trade was 31,087,587*l.*

Imports and exports, 1877 and 1878, compared.

194. The value of imports in 1878 was less than that in 1877 by 200,424*l.* The value of exports in 1878 was less than the value in 1877 by 231,980*l.*

Imports and exports, 1878 and former years.

195. The imports, as indicated by their value, were lower in 1878 than in any one of the last six years except 1876; they were not exceeded, however, in any year prior to the first of the sexenniad except 1857 and 1854. The exports were exceeded in value by those in three of the years in the same period, viz., 1877, 1874, and 1873, but prior to that period only in 1868, 1857, and 1856.*

Imports and exports per head.

196. In 1878 the value of imports per head of the population was less than in any previous year since 1851 except 1872, 1871, 1870, and 1867; the value of exports per head was less than in any one of the same years except 1876; and the value of the total trade per head was less than in any of those years except 1870. The following table shows the value per head in each year, commencing with that in which Victoria became an independent Colony:—

Imports and Exports per Head, 1851 *to* 1878.

Year.	Value per Head of the Population of		
	Imports.	Exports.	Both.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851 - -	12 3 4	16 7 9	28 11 1
1852 - -	30 12 5	56 1 4	86 13 9
1853 - -	81 1 9	56 12 4	137 14 1
1854 - -	66 0 11	44 0 10	110 1 9
1855 - -	35 9 10	39 17 8	75 7 6
1856 - -	39 5 6	40 13 3	79 18 9
1857 - -	40 2 0	35 0 10	75 2 10
1858 - -	31 4 6	28 18 3	60 2 9
1859 - -	30 4 1	26 16 3	57 0 4
1860 - -	27 19 8	24 0 8	52 0 4
1861 - -	25 0 3	25 11 3	50 11 6
1862 - -	24 11 10	23 15 6	48 7 4
1863 - -	25 3 0	24 3 4	49 6 4
1864 - -	25 8 4	23 11 10	49 0 2
1865 - -	21 10 2	21 6 8	42 16 10
1866 - -	23 5 11	20 6 7	43 12 6
1867 - -	17 19 4	19 11 8	37 11 0
1868 - -	19 16 11	23 4 8	43 1 7
1869 - -	19 19 2	19 6 5	39 5 7
1870 - -	17 10 11	17 11 4	35 2 3
1871 - -	16 14 2	19 14 2	36 8 4
1872 - -	17 19 10	18 4 7	36 4 5
1873 - -	21 3 9	19 12 2	40 15 11
1874 - -	21 4 7	19 6 8	40 11 3
1875 - -	20 9 6	18 2 4	38 11 10
1876 - -	18 18 1	17 1 10	35 19 11
1877 - -	19 5 1	17 16 8	37 1 9
1878 - -	18 11 11	17 3 6	35 15 5

* For value of imports and exports in each year, *see* Statistical Summary of Victoria, *post.*

VICTORIA.

Imports and exports, the produce of various countries.

197. The value of the imports into Victoria of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, of other British dominions, and of foreign states, and the value of the exports from Victoria of articles entered as the produce or manufacture of the same countries, and of the Colony itself, also the per-centage of such values to the total value of imports and exports in 1878, will be found in the following table:—

Imports and Exports, the Produce of different Countries, 1878.

Articles, the Produce or Manufacture of	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Victoria - - -	—	—	10,676,499	71·53
The United Kingdom -	7,341,109	45·42	1,446,045	9·69
Other British Possessions -	6,219,321	38·48	1,965,583	13·17
Foreign States - -	2,601,450	16·10	837,580	5·61
Total - -	16,161,880	100·00	14,925,707	100·00

Exports of Victorian produce.

198. It will be observed that nearly 72 per cent. of the exports were set down as the produce or manufacture of Victoria. This is about the same proportion as that which prevailed in 1875 and in 1876, but it is less than in any other year of the previous decenniad except 1870. The following table gives the total value and value per head of articles of Victorian produce exported and their proportion to the total exports in each of the 11 years ended with 1878:—

Exports of Victorian Produce, 1868 *to* 1878.

Year.	Exports of Articles produced or manufactured in Victoria.		
	Total Value.	Value per Head of the Population.	Per-centage of Total Exports.
	£	£ s. d.	
1868 - -	11,697,893	17 8 $6\frac{3}{4}$	75·02
1869 - -	9,539,816	13 13 9	70·85
1870 - -	9,103,323	12 16 $5\frac{3}{4}$	73·00
1871 - -	11,151,622	15 1 $10\frac{3}{4}$	76·60
1872 - -	10,758,658	14 2 9	77·56
1873 - -	11,876,707	15 4 $4\frac{1}{2}$	77·61
1874 - -	11,352,515	14 4 $3\frac{1}{4}$	73·52
1875 - -	10,571,806	12 19 5	71·59
1876 - -	10,155,916	12 4 $6\frac{1}{4}$	71·54
1877 - -	11,269,086	13 5 $2\frac{1}{4}$	74·35
1878 - -	10,676,499	12 5 $8\frac{1}{2}$	71·53

Trade with various countries.

199. In 1878 nearly half the imports, according to value, were from, and more than two fifths of the exports were to, the United Kingdom. Over a third of the former, and more than a third of the latter, were conveyed between Victoria and the neighbouring

VICTORIA.

Colonies, chiefly New South Wales. Nearly 24 per cent. of the exports were to countries grouped under the head of "Other British possessions," the articles being chiefly gold and specie sent to Ceylon, intended generally, no doubt, for further shipment to the United Kingdom. The value of the imports from, and the exports to, the different countries, and the per-centage of such values to the total imports and exports are given in the following table :—

Imports from and Exports to different Countries, 1878.

Countries.	Imports therefrom.		Exports thereto.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
The United Kingdom - -	7,389,239	45·72	6,458,484	43·27
New South Wales - -	4,121,948	25·50	2,474,909	16·58
Queensland - - -	14,429	·09	47,346	·32
South Australia - - -	350,148	2·17	699,964	4·69
Western Australia - -	24,050	·15	81,357	·55
Tasmania - - - -	285,768	1·77	507,544	3·40
New Zealand - - -	813,112	5·03	1,026,292	6·88
Other British possessions - -	1,470,706	9·09	3,553,359	23·80
The United States - -	595,713	3·69	23,941	·16
Other Foreign States - -	1,096,767	6·79	52,511	·35
Total - -	16,161,880	100·00	14,925,707	100·00

Imports of principal articles.

200. The values of 58 of the principal articles imported in 1878 are shown in the following table:—

Imports of Principal Articles, 1878.

Articles.	Value of Imports. 1878.
	£
Books - - - - -	180,163
Stationery - - - -	60,933
Musical instruments - - -	71,397
Watches, clocks, and watchmakers' materials	67,755
Cutlery - - - - -	26,562
Machinery - - - -	110,546
Tools and utensils - - - -	37,103
Furniture and upholstery - - -	57,578
Drugs and chemicals - - -	74,043
Matches and vestas - - -	41,494
Opium - - - - -	71,308
Paints and colours - - - -	64,351
Carpeting and druggeting - - -	59,834
Woollens and woollen piece goods - -	866,179
Silks - - - - -	256,549

Articles.	Value of Imports. 1878.
	£
Cottons - - - - -	663,262
Linen piece goods - - - -	41,110
Haberdashery - - - -	269,855
Apparel and slops - - - -	370,350
Boots and shoes - - - -	213,435
Gloves - - - - -	81,303
Hats, caps, and bonnets - - -	138,096
Hosiery - - - - -	128,531
Bags and sacks (including woolpacks) -	149,559
Butter and cheese - - - -	3,570
Fish - - - - -	126,540
Meats, fresh, preserved, and salted - -	8,642
Flour and biscuit - - - -	6,389
Fruit (including currants and raisins) -	130,562
Grain, oats - - - -	92,447
„ wheat - - - -	8,176
„ other (including rice) - -	422,060
Sugar and molasses - - -	1,089,734
Beer, cider, and perry - - -	187,425
Coffee - - - - -	66,122
Hops - - - - -	56,952
Spirits - - - - -	371,143
Tea - - - - -	540,930
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - - -	268,864
Wine - - - - -	147,569
Candles - - - - -	35,088
Hides, skins, and pelts - - -	105,381
Leather, leatherware, and leather cloth -	138,836
Wool - - - - -	2,362,697
Paper (including paper bags) - -	166,801
Timber - - - - -	533,626
Oil of all kinds - - - -	247,158
Coal - - - - -	356,994
Earthenware, brownware, and chinaware -	66,474
Glass and glassware - - -	87,214
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	673,370
Jewellery - - - - -	52,502
Specie - - - - -	330,216
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, &c.)	595,730
Nails and screws - - - -	48,292
Live stock - - - - -	617,179
Fancy goods - - - -	45,594
Hardware and ironmongery - -	157,358
Oilmen's stores - - - -	14,749
Total - -	- 14,263,680

VICTORIA.

Exports of principal articles.

201. The exports of 40 of the principal articles are in like manner given in the next table:—

Exports of Principal Articles, 1878.

Articles.	Value of Exports. 1878.
	£
Books, &c. - - - -	66,464
Stationery - - - - -	44,400
Machinery - - - - -	114,582
Woollens and woollen piece goods - -	128,121
Apparel and slops - - - -	283,862
Boots and shoes - - - -	125,359
Butter and cheese - - - -	68,542
Meats, fresh and preserved - - -	75,627
„ salted - - - -	16,497
Flour and biscuit - - - -	222,654
Grain, oats - - - -	12,307
„ wheat - - - -	88,626
„ other (including rice) - -	103,567
Potatoes - - - - -	72,983
Sugar - - - - -	259,735
Coffee - - - - -	31,743
Spirits - - - - -	147,840
Tea - - - - -	258,421
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - - -	223,492
Wine - - - - -	67,637
Bones and bonedust - - -	9,558
Candles - - - - -	22,291
Hides - - - - -	9,417
Horns and hoofs - - - -	3,843
Leather and leatherware - - -	224,546
Skins and pelts - - - -	19,706
Soap - - - - -	15,114
Tallow - - - - -	103,879
Wool - - - - -	5,810,148
Bark - - - - -	75,129
Hay and chaff - - - -	26,850
Oil of all kinds - - - -	73,137
Gold (exclusive of specie) - - -	1,495,449
Specie, gold - - - -	2,399,741
„ silver - - - -	1,715
Antimony—ore, regulus, &c. - -	33,143
Copper—ore, regulus, &c. - - -	38,896
Tin, tin ore, and black sand - -	4,298
Live stock - - - - -	440,908
Hardware and ironmongery (including galvanized ironware) - - -	82,190
Total - - -	13,302,417

VICTORIA.

Excess of imports over exports, &c. 1837 to 1878.

202. In 24 out of the 42 years ended with 1878 the value of imports to Victoria exceeded that of exports therefrom, but in the other 18 years the value of exports was the greater. The following is a statement of the amounts by which the imports exceeded the exports in those years in which the excess was in favour of the former, and the amounts by which the exports exceeded the imports in those years in which the excess was in the opposite direction; also the net excess of imports during the whole period.

Imports in excess of Exports and the contrary, 1837 *to* 1878.

Year.	Imports in Excess of Exports.	Exports in Excess of Imports.	Year.	Imports in Excess of Exports.	Exports in Excess of Imports.
	£	£		£	£
1837	103,201	—	1858	1,119,040	—
1838	45,232	—	1859	1,755,032	—
1839	127,038	—	1860	2,131,026	—
1840	306,507	—	1861	—	296,154
1841	164,094	—	1862	448,365	—
1842	78,644	—	1863	552,431	—
1843	—	66,446	1864	1,076,431	—
1844	—	105,785	1865	106,789	—
1845	—	215,304	1866	1,882,165	—
1846	—	109,640	1867	—	1,050,347
1847	—	230,815	1868	—	2,273,328
1848	—	301,683	1869	444,636	—
1849	—	275,495	1870	—	14,256
1850	—	296,871	1871	—	2,215,825
1851	—	366,472	1872	—	179,873
1852	—	3,381,807	1873	1,231,402	—
1853	4,781,093	—	1874	1,512,876	—
1854	5,883,847	—	1875	1,918,900	—
1855	—	1,485,399	1876	1,508,867	—
1856	—	527,491	1877	1,204,617	—
1857	2,176,697	—	1878	1,236,173	—
		Total - -		31,795,103	13,392,991
		Deduct excess of exports - -		13,392,991	—
		Net excess of imports -		18,402,112	—

Excess of imports over exports in 42 years.

203. It will be observed that in the 42 years of which mention is made in the table, the imports exceeded the exports by upwards of 18,000,000*l.*, or an average of nearly 440,000*l.* per annum. It should, however, be remembered that these amounts would be much reduced if the sums paid for freight should be deducted from the imports, and the costs of victualling, ship's stores, and coals for the use of steamers, be added to the exports.

Shipping.

204. The vessels entering and leaving Victorian ports in 1878 numbered 4,292, of the aggregate burden of 1,913,427 tons. The tonnage was greater in 1878 than in any former year. The number of vessels, through greater than in 1874 and 1876, was exceeded in the other three years of the previous quinquenniad.

VICTORIA.

Postal returns.

205. The following figures show the number of post offices throughout the Colony, and the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through them in the last two years. A satisfactory increase is to be observed in all the items :—

Postal Returns, 1877 *and* 1878.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.*	Newspapers.	Packets.	Total.
1877 -	948	20,910,958	9,809,064	2,527,904	33,247,926
1878 -	1,007	22,324,931	10,697,331	3,210,296	36,232,558
Increase -	59	1,413,973	888,267	682,392	2,984,632

Proportion of letters, &c. to population.

206. The letters, newspapers, and packets despatched and received were in the proportion of 3,912 in 1877, and of 4,169 in 1878, to every 100 of the population in those years.

Money orders.

207. Money order offices in Victoria in connexion with the post office had been established in 256 places up to the end of 1878. Besides the issue and payment of money orders at these places, such orders are issued in favour of Victoria, and Victorian orders are paid at places in Great Britain and Ireland, and in the various Australasian Colonies. The following is a comparative statement of the business in the last two years. A large increase will be observed in the number and amount of orders paid, also an increase in the number but a slight decrease in the amount of orders issued :—

Money Orders, 1877 *and* 1878.

Year.	Number of Money Order Offices.	Money Orders issued.		Money Orders paid.	
		Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
			£		£
1877 -	246	131,173	395,829	133,587	423,588
1878 -	256	132,659	394,999	142,280	440,297
Increase -	10	1,486	—	8,693	16,709
Decrease -	—	—	830	—	—

Average value of money orders.

208. The average amount for which money orders were issued during the two years named in the table was 2*l.* 19*s.* 6½*d.*; the average amount for which money orders were paid was 3*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.*

Electric telegraphs.

209. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between 233 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected

* Including post cards. These were first issued on the 1st April 1876. The number issued in 1878 was 782,100.

besides with the lines of New South Wales, and, by means of them, with Queensland and New Zealand. They are also connected with the lines of South Australia, and, by their means, with the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, and America. They are likewise united with a submarine cable to Tasmania. The lines were extended during 1878 by 85 miles, and 204 miles of wire were added to that previously existing. The increase of communication and business during the year is shown in the following table :—

Electric Telegraphs, 1877 *and* 1878.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of	
		Line (poles).	Wire.
1877 - - -	206	2,885	5,200
1878 - - -	233	2,970	5,404
Increase -	27	85	204

Year.	Number of Telegrams.			Amount Received.
	Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.	
				£
1877 - - -	729,436	190,549	919,985	57,429
1878 - - -	767,395	236,259	1,003,654	60,288
Increase -	37,959	45,710	83,669	2,859

Railways : length, gauge, &c.

210. The number of miles of railway open in Victoria at the end of 1878 was 1,052, of which 877¾, viz., 164½ miles of double and 870½ miles of single line, belonged to the State, and 17, viz., 9¾ miles of double and 7¼ miles of single line, to the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Company. This company's lines, however, have since been purchased by the Government, so all the railways in Victoria are now the property of the State. The lines are constructed upon a gauge of 5 feet 3 inches, which is also the national gauge of South Australia, but not of New South Wales, in which Colony a 4 feet 8½ inches gauge has been adopted. The private line of railway, however, between Moama and Deniliquin, in New South Wales, which is connected with the Victorian line from Sandhurst to Echuca, has been constructed upon a 5 feet 3 inches gauge. The cost of the Government railways was 16,677,323*l.*, and the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway has just been purchased for 1,320,820*l.* The total cost of the completed railways to the State has thus been 17,998,143*l.*

Railways in progress.

211. At the end of 1878 lines were in course of construction of a proposed total length of 72½ miles, which added to the length of the completed lines makes a grand total of 1,124½ miles. The

VICTORIA.

amount authorised for their construction was 546,812*l.*, but the sum expended up to that date had amounted to only 130,642*l.*

Railways authorised.

212. Besides the 72½ miles of railway in progress, there were 67½ more authorized but not commenced during the year. It is estimated that the cost of these will be about 410,000*l.*

Miles travelled and passenger rates.

213. The miles travelled during the year numbered 3,633,190, viz., 3,095,590 on the Government lines, and 537,600 on the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay lines. The passenger rates per mile were as follow at the same period. It appears by the figures that the rates were somewhat higher on Government than on private lines.

Passenger Rates (Single) per Mile, 1878.

	d.		*d.*
First-class Government lines - - -	2	Second-class Government lines - - -	1⅓
First-class private lines -	1½	Second-class private lines	1⅛

Wages.

214. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in Melbourne in 1878. The rates of wages in country districts are generally somewhat higher than those in the metropolis. Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artisans and general labourers is eight hours :—

Wages in Melbourne, 1878.

Description of Labour.		1878.
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.		
Farm labourers - - -	per week, with rations	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Ploughmen - - - -	„ „ -	18*s.* to 22*s.* 6*d.*
Reapers - - - -	per acre „ -	7*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.*
Mowers - - - -	„ „ -	6*s.*
Threshers - - -	per bushel „ -	6*d.*
PASTORAL LABOUR.		
Shepherds - - -	per annum, with rations	30*l.* to 50*l.*
Stockkeepers - - -	„ „ -	40*l.* to 55*l.*
Hutkeepers - - -	„ „ -	28*l.*
Generally useful men on stations -	per week „ -	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Sheepwashers - - -	„ „ -	22*s.*
Shearers - - - -	per 100 sheep sheared, with rations.	15*s.* to 20*s.*
ARTIZAN LABOUR.		
Masons - - - -	per day, without rations	10*s.* to 11*s.*
Plasterers - - - -	„ „ -	10*s.*
Bricklayers - - - -	„ „ -	10*s.*
Carpenters - - - -	„ „ -	10*s.*
Blacksmiths - -	„ „ -	10*s.* to 13*s.*

Description of Labour.	1878.
SERVANTS—MALES AND MARRIED COUPLES.	
Married couples, without family - - per annum, with board and lodging	60*l.* to 90*l.*
Married couples, with family - - " " " -	40*l.* to 50*l.*
Men cooks, on farms and stations - - " " " -	45*l.* to 55*l.*
Grooms - - " " " -	50*l.*
Gardeners - - per week " " -	15*s.* to 25*s.*
SERVANTS—FEMALES.	
Cooks - - - per annum, with board and lodging	35*l.* to 60*l.*
Laundresses - - " " " -	30*l.* to 45*l.*
General servants - " " " -	25*l.* to 35*l.*
Housemaids - - " " " -	35*l.* to 40*l.*
Nursemaids - - " " " -	25*l.* to 35*l.*
MISCELLANEOUS LABOUR.	
General labourers - - per day, without rations -	5*s.* to 7*s.*
Stone-breakers - - per cubic yard, without rations	—
Seamen - - - per month, with rations -	4*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*
Miners - - - per week, without rations -	2*l.* to 2*l.* 10*s.*

Royal Mint.

215. A branch of the Royal Mint was established in Melbourne in 1872. From the time of its opening to the end of 1878, 2,729,099 ounces of gold were received thereat, valued at 10,857,590*l.*

Gold issued from mint.

216. Gold is issued from the mint as coin or as bullion. The former, with the exception of 165,000 half sovereigns in 1873, and 80,000 in 1877, has consisted entirely of sovereigns. The following is a statement of the gold issued in each year, whether in the shape of coin or bullion. It will be noticed that in both these forms more gold was issued in 1878 than in any previous year.

Gold issued at Melbourne Mint, 1872 *to* 1878.

Year.	Coin.		Bullion.		Total Value of Coin and Bullion.
	Sovereigns.	Half sovereigns.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Number.	Number.	oz.	£	£
1872 -	748,000	—	1,205	3,610	751,610
1873 -	752,000	165,000	3,106	11,035	845,535
1874 -	1,373,000	—	2,912	10,417	1,383,417
1875 -	1,888,000	—	3,553	13,857	1,901,857
1876 -	2,124,000	—	3,625	14,145	2,138,145
1877 -	1,487,000	80,000	3,326	13,004	1,540,004
1878 -	2,171,000	—	3,691	14,640	2,185,640
	10,543,000	245,000	21,418	79,708	10,746,208

VICTORIA.

Mint charges.

217. Gold deposited at the mint is subject to a charge of 1½*d.* per oz. on the gross weight before melting, if the deposit contains 1,000 ounces of standard gold or over, and of 2*d.* per oz. if the deposit contains less than 1,000 ozs., the minimum charge on any deposit being 4*s.*

Mint allowances.

218. Any silver in a deposit in excess of 4 per cent. of the weight of the deposit after melting is allowed for at a rate per ounce to be fixed from time to time by the deputy master. A reduction of a sixth of the charges is made on deposits containing more than 24 ounces of unrefinable gold, or gold containing silver in less proportion than 4½ per cent., and base metal in less proportion than 2 per cent. of the weight of deposit after melting.

Number of banks.

219. There were 13 Banks of issue in Victoria during 1878, possessing therein 324 branches or agencies. In the first year of each of the two previous quinquennial periods there were 10 Banks of issue in the Colony.

Liabilities, assets, &c. of banks.

220. The position of the Banks as regards liabilities, assets, capital, and profits, according to the sworn returns for the last quarter of the same three years, was as follows:—It will be observed that a large increase has taken place at each successive period in both liabilities and assets. Under the former head, however, the note circulation was much lower at the last than at the middle period, as also were deposits not bearing interest; but interest bearing deposits were much higher at the last period. Under the head of assets, "debts due to the banks" show an enormous increase at the last period, but the coin and bullion was lower at that period than at either of the former ones. The capital and reserve, however, were greater by nearly a million and a half sterling at the last than at the middle period.

Position of Banks, 1868, 1873, *and* 1878.

LIABILITIES.

—	1868.	1873.	1878.
	£	£	£
Notes in circulation -	1,270,727	1,452,908	1,281,134
Bills in circulation -	92,624	79,097	60,133
Balances due to other banks.	99,572	280,439	268,019
Deposits not bearing interest.	3,703,860	5,461,737	4,602,578
Deposits bearing interest	6,512,380	6,818,814	11,504,003
Total -	11,679,163	14,092,995	17,715,867

ASSETS.

——	1868.	1873.	1878.
	£	£	£
Coined gold, silver, and other metals.	2,287,284	2,435,239	2,094,739
Gold and silver in bullion and bars.	522,782	480,763	293,233
Landed property -	570,629	653,138	872,079
Notes and bills of other banks.	154,279	171,925	137,812
Balances due from other banks.	358,324	319,024	267,993
Debts due to the banks -	12,358,708	15,883,870	22,430,329
Total -	16,252,006	19,943,959	26,096,185

CAPITAL AND PROFITS.

	£	£	£
Capital stock paid up -	8,320,624	8,366,250	9,188,653
Average per annum of rates of last dividend declared by banks.	$10\frac{7}{20}$ per cent.	$10\frac{1}{10}$ per cent.	$10\frac{1}{26}$ per cent.
Average rate of interest per annum paid to shareholders.	11·039 per cent.	10·746 per cent.	11·533 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared.	459,280	449,500	529,856
Amount of reserved profits after declaring dividend.	2,145,006	2,311,065	29,50,743

221. The following table shows the proportion of each item of the liabilities to the total liabilities, and of each item of the assets to the total assets of the banks at the same periods:— Per-centage items of liabilities and assets.

Liabilities and Assets of Banks.—Per-centage of Items.

LIABILITIES.

——	1868.	1873.	1878.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Notes in circulation - -	10·88	10·31	7·23
Bills in circulation - -	·79	·56	·34
Balances due to other banks -	·85	1·99	1·51
Deposits not bearing interest -	31·71	38·76	25·98
Deposits bearing interest - -	55·77	48·38	64·94
Total - - -	100·00	100·00	100·00

VICTORIA.

ASSETS.

—	1868.	1873.	1878.
Coined gold, silver, and other metals	14·07	12·21	8·03
Gold and silver in bullion or bars	3·22	2·41	1·12
Landed property - - -	3·51	3·28	3·34
Notes and bills of other banks -	·95	·86	·53
Balances due from other banks -	2·21	1·60	1·03
Debts due to the banks - -	76·04	79·64	85·95
Total - - -	100·00	100·00	100·00

Analysis of bank returns.

222. The following results are arrived at by analysing the bank returns at the three periods:—

The liabilities amounted to -
- 71·86 per cent. of the assets in 1868
- 70·66 „ „ 1873
- 67·89 „ „ 1878

Coin and bullion formed -
- 17·29 per cent of the assets in 1868
- 14·62 „ „ 1873
- 9·15 „ „ 1878

The paid-up capital was equal to
- 51·20 per cent. of the assets in 1868
- 41·95 „ „ 1873
- 35·21 „ „ 1878
- 71·24 per cent. of the liabilities in 1868
- 59·36 „ „ 1873
- 51·87 „ „ 1878

Of the moneys deposited -
- 63·74 per cent. bore interest in 1868
- 55·53 „ „ 1873
- 71·42 „ „ 1878

Former periods and 1878 compared.

223. It will be observed that the liabilities bore a smaller proportion to the assets, but the latter embraced a smaller proportion of coin and bullion, and the paid up capital bore a much smaller proportion both to the assets and liabilities in 1878 than at either of the former periods; also at the last period a much larger proportion of the moneys deposited bore interest than at either of the former periods.

Rates of interest on bank deposits.

224. The rates of interest allowed on moneys deposited with the banks were not returned for 1868 and 1873. The rates on deposits left for a period of 12 months ranged from 5 to 6½ per cent. in 1878, from 5 to 6 per cent. in 1877, 1876, and 1875, and from 4 to 6 per cent. in 1874.

Savings banks.

225. Two kinds of Savings Banks exist in Victoria, the ordinary Savings Banks, which were first established in 1842, and the post office Savings Banks, which were first established in 1865. The former numbered 11, and the latter 173 at the end of 1878. The number of depositors has been increasing from year to year. There was a smaller amount remaining on deposit in 1878 than in 1877,

but a larger amount thar in any other year except 1874. The following are the figures during the last seven years:—

	Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.
1872 - -	52,749	1,405,738
1873 - -	58,547	1,498,618
1874 - -	64,014	1,617,301
1875 - -	65,837	1,469,849
1876 - -	69,027	1,507,235
1877 - -	73,245	1,575,305
1878 - -	76,697	1,510,273

Rate of interest in savings banks.

226. The highest rate of interest savings banks are permitted to give on moneys left on deposit is 4 per cent. This rate was allowed in all the years.

Total moneys on deposit.

227. The following is a statement of the total amount of moneys on deposit at the end of each of the last three years with banks of issue, savings banks, and building societies. Other institutions, such as deposit banks, and some of the insurance companies, also receive deposits, but of these no returns are furnished:

Moneys on Deposit at end of Years 1876 *to* 1878.

	1876.	1877.	1878.
	£	£	£
Amount deposited with banks - -	14,850,148	16,503,528	16,106,581
„ „ savings banks -	1,507,235	1,575,305	1,510,273
„ „ building societies	611,598	748,253	703,463
Total - - -	16,968,981	18,827,086	18,320,317

Increase or decrease of deposits.

228. It will be observed that the moneys on deposit at the close of 1877 exceeded those at the same period of 1876 by nearly 2,000,000 sterling, but the amounts in 1878 were less by over half a million than those in the previous year.

Insolvencies.

229. A greater number of insolvencies with, in the aggregate, larger liabilities took place in 1878 than in any other year since 1872. The deficiency as shown by the insolvents' schedules, was greater than in 1877, 1875, or 1873, but was less than in the other two years of the quinquenniad. The following are the figures of the last two years:—

Insolvencies, 1877 *and* 1878.

Year.	Number of Insolvencies.	As shown by the Insolvents' Schedule.		
		Liabilities.	Assets.	Deficiency.
		£	£	£
1877 - - -	715	462,651	272,720	189,931
1878 - - -	781	677,364	408,677	268,687
Increase - -	66	214,713	135,957	78,756

VICTORIA.

Deficiency of insolvents.

230. The deficiency, as shown by the insolvents' schedules, amounted in 1876 to 49 per cent., in 1877 to 41 per cent., but in 1878 only to 39 per cent of the liabilities.

Insolvencies 15 years.

231. In the 15 years ended with 1878, the number of insolvents who filed their schedules was 13,060; their declared liabilities amounted to 8,406,523*l.*, and the declaled deficiency to 4,635,425*l.* Thus the liabilities were in the proportion of 643*l.* to each insolvent, and the deficiency was in the proportion of 55 per cent. of the liabilities.

Arrests, 1868, 1873, and 1878.

232. The persons who were taken in charge by the Victorian police in 1878, and in the first year of each of the two previous quinquenniads, were as follow :—

Persons arrested, 1868, 1873, *and* 1878.

—	1868.	1873.	1878.
Taken into custody - - -	24,384	24,959	25,544
Discharged by magistrates - -	8,154	7,262	7,448
Summarily convicted or held to bail -	15,329	16,968	17,438
Committed for trial - - -	901	729	658

Arrests in proportion to population.

233. It will be observed that more arrests were made at the last period than at either of the others. In proportion to the number of persons in the Colony, however, arrests were far more numerous at the first period than they were at the second or last. The estimated average population in 1868 was 671,222, in 1873 780,362, and in 1878 869,040. The arrests were therefore in the proportion of 1 to every 28 persons living at the first period, of 1 to every 31 persons living at the second period, and of 1 to every 34 persons living at the third period.

Proportion of times charge was sustained.

234. The persons summarily convicted, held to bail, or committed for trial were to the whole number arrested in the proportion of 67 per cent. at the first period, and of 71 per cent. at the second and third periods.

Diminution of serious offences.

235. The diminution in the number of serious offences is shown by the decreasing number of commitments for trial at each successive period. These were in the proportion of 1 to every 27 arrests at the first period, or 1 to every 34 arrests at the middle period, and of 1 to every 39 arrests at the third period.

Causes of arrest.

236. A condensed statement of the offences for which arrests were made in the same three years, together with the num-

bers arrested for each offence, will be found in the following table:—

Causes of Arrest, 1868, 1873, *and* 1878.

Offence.	1868.	1873.	1878.
Murder and attempt at murder	31	25	21
Manslaughter	22	20	15
Shooting at or wounding with intent to do bodily harm	51	55	73
Assaults	1,394	1,408	1,636
Rape and indecent assaults on females	72	74	54
Unnatural offence, and assaults with intent to commit	18	19	2
Other offences against the person	95	108	114
Robbery with violence, burglary, &c.	271	187	187
Horse, sheep, and cattle stealing, &c.	213	155	173
Other offences against property	4,025	3,435	3,622
Forgery and offences against the currency	95	99	122
Drunkenness	9,743	11,195	11,825
Other offences against good order	6,191	5,955	5,978
Offences relating to carrying out laws	546	593	308
Smuggling, and other offences against the revenue	85	73	68
Offences against public welfare	1,532	1,558	1,346
Total	24,384	24,959	25,544

Offences at last period.

237. Arrests for murder and attempt at murder, for manslaughter, for sexual offences, for offences relating to carrying out laws, for smuggling, and for offences against public welfare, were less numerous at the last period, than at either the second or the first. Apprehensions for shooting at with intent to do bodily harm, for assaults for miscellaneous offences against the person, for forgery and offences against the currency, and for drunkenness, were more numerous at the last period than at either of the other periods.

Offences at middle period.

238. Sexual offences were most rife at the middle period, as also were offences relating to carrying out laws, and offences against public welfare. At the same time horse, sheep, and cattle stealing and other offences against property, and miscellaneous offences against good order, were, according to the arrests made, less common than at either of the other periods.

Drunkenness.

239. Arrests for drunkenness in 1878 were much more numerous than in 1868, and slightly more so than in 1873. This offence would appear to be increasing at a greater ratio than other offences, for in 1868, 1 in every 2·60, in 1873 1 in every 2·22, and in 1878 1 in every 2·16 of the total number of arrests was for drunkenness. It is, however, not quite certain that the offence increases to the extent shown by the arrests. It is possible that as the more serious offences diminish, and consequently demand less attention, the police, may find leisure to exercise greater vigilance in respect to drunkards, and hence the larger number of apprehensions made.

Proportion of drunkards to population.

240. Making every allowance, however, drunkenness is quite common enough to show that vigorous effort on the part of those who are seeking to suppress or mitigate the evil is not uncalled

for. It must be remembered that arrests for this offence are very seldom made unless it is accompanied with disorderly conduct; notwithstanding this, however, in the five years ended with 1878 they have numbered 10,981, 11,541, 11,624, 12,447, and 11,825. In many cases no doubt the same individual was arrested over and over again. Supposing, however, each arrest represented a distinct individual there was taken into custody for drunkenness:

In 1874	one	person	in	every 73	living in Victoria
„ 1875	„	„		71	„ „
„ 1876	„	„		72	„ „
„ 1877	„	„		68	„ „
„ 1878	„	„		73	„ „

Birth-places and religions of criminals.

241. The following table shows the birth-places and religions of the persons taken into custody and of those committed for trial in 1878; also the ratio of those of each country and sect to the estimated numbers of the same country and sect in the mean population:—

Birth-places and Religions of Persons Arrested and Committed for Trial, 1878.

Birth-place and Religion.	Persons Arrested.		Persons Committed for Trial.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.	Number.	Proportion per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.
Birth-place.				
Victoria - - -	4,861*	10·37	164	3·50
Other Australian Colonies	1,078	26·44	35	8·58
England and Wales -	7,361	44·42	207	12·49
Scotland - - -	2,380	43·72	50	9·19
Ireland - - -	8,131	83·87	116	11·96
China - - -	291	16·48	14	7.93
Other countries - -	1,442	—	72	—
Total -	25,544	29·39	658	7·57
Religion.				
Protestants - -	14,102	22·44	412	6·55
Roman Catholics -	10,857	52·39	205	9·89
Jews - - -	68	15·69	7	16·15
Pagans - - -	295	13·85	13	6·10
Others - - -	222	—	21	—

* Including 71 aborigines.

Relative numbers of each birth-place.

242. It is always found that fewer Victorians are arrested, and fewer are committed for trial, in proportion to their numbers in the population, than persons of any other nationality. This is

no doubt mainly due to the fact of a very large proportion of children being embraced within their numbers. The country which supplies the largest number of arrested persons is generally Ireland. In 1878, those arrested of this nationality exceded the English and Welsh arrested by 770, and this although natives of England and Wales in the population outnumbered the Irish by nearly 70,000. The offences with which the Irish were charged could not, however, as a whole, have been of so serious a nature as those in respect of which the English were arrested, as the number of the former committed for trial was, in proportion to population, smaller than that of the latter. It, however, exceeded the ratio of any other nationality. Proportionately to their numbers in the population, the Scotch arrested were slightly, and those committed for trial were much below the English, whilst the Chinese arrested and committed for trial, were below persons of any nationality except Victorians. Arrests and commitments of natives of other Australasian Colonies were the least numerous after those of Chinese and Victorians.

Relative numbers of each religion.

243. In proportion to their numbers in the community the Roman Catholics supplied more than twice as many arrested persons as the Protestants, more than three times as many as the Jews, and more than three and a half times as many as the Pagans. In view of a similar proportion, fewer Protestants were committed for trial than were members of any of the other sects distinguished, except Pagans. Seven Jews were committed for trial during the year, which, as the numbers of this sect in the population are but small, renders the proportions of committals of Jews nearly twice as high as that of Roman Catholics, and much more than twice as high as that of adherents to any other sect.

Results of committals for trial.

244. The results of the commitments for trial at the three periods already referred to were as follow :—

Results of Commitments for Trial, 1868, 1873, *and* 1878.

——	1868.	1873.	1878.
Number for trial - -	901	729	764
Convicted and sentenced -	543	476	458
Acquitted - - -	282	201	178
Not prosecuted - - -	76	52	64
Awaiting trial - - -	—	—	64

Undetected crime.

245. The offences reported in respect to which no person was apprehended were 9 per cent. less numerous in 1878 than in 1877, in which year they were 13 per cent. more numerous than in 1876. The following are the numbers in the last two years classified as being against the person, against property, and others, the decrease occurring in the two latter classes. It should be remarked that, in all probability, the malefactor did not in every

case escape entirely; the returns are made up in the month of April of the year following that in which the offence is reported, and he who committed it might be arrested after that date, or might even before that date have been arrested, and perhaps punished for other misdeeds.

Undetected Crime, 1877 *and* 1878.

Year.	Number of Offences.			
	Against the Person.	Against Property.	Other Offences.	Total.
1877 - -	457	4,431	463	5,351
1878 - -	496	4,011	385	4,892
Increase -	39	—	—	—
Decrease -	—	420	78	459

Gaols and penal establishments.

246. Places for the reception of prisoners in Victoria are of three kinds, ordinary gaols, police gaols, and penal establishments. The ordinary gaols are both houses of correction and debtors' prisons.* The penal establishments are houses of correction only. The police gaols are used for the detention of prisoners sentenced to short periods of imprisonment or awaiting trial or transfer to some other gaol or penal establishment, or to a lunatic asylum.

Gaols and prisoners.

247. The total and average number of males and females detained in each of these descriptions of prison during 1878, and the numbers transferred from one institution to another in the same year, will be found in the following table:—

Gaols and Penal Establishments, 1878.

Description of Prison.	Number of Institutions.	Prisoners detained during the Year.						Prisoners transferred from one Institution to another during the Year.		
		Total Number.			Average at One Time.					
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaols - - -	9	6,771	2,861	9,632	612	275	887	2,331	502	2,833
Police gaols - -	14	635	84	719	24	3	27	173	32	205
Penal establishments -	4	1,538	—	1,538	582	—	582	283	—	283
Total - -	27	8,944	2,945	11,889	1,218	278	1,496	2,787	534	3,321

Proportion of prisoners to population.

248. Estimating the mean population of the Colony during 1878 as 869,040, consisting of 472,309 males and 396,731 females, and comparing these figures with those in the table showing the average number of prisoners, it follows that 1 person to every 581

* Imprisonment for debt has been abolished in Victoria, except where fraud is proved.

persons living was constantly in prison during the year; or, distinguishing the sexes, that, during the same period, 1 male to every 388 males living, and 1 female to every 1,427 females living, were constantly in detention. These figures and those for the two previous years are given in the following table; it will be observed that each year shows improvement upon the one which preceded it:—

Proportion of Prisoners to Population 1876 *to* 1878.

Year.	Of the Total Population One Person was constantly in Prison to every—		
	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
1876 - - -	345	1,161	508
1877 - - -	373	1,206	544
1878 - - -	388	1,427	581

249. The numbers of registered clergy, of buildings used for public worship, of persons such buildings could accommodate, of those usually attending divine service, and of the services performed in connexion with each religious denomination, were returned as follow for the year 1878:— Churches and clergy.

Churches and Clergy, 1878.

Religious Denominations.	Number of Registered Clergy.	Churches and other Buildings used for Public Worship.			Number of Services during the Year.
		Number.	Persons for whom there is Accommodation.	Persons usually attending at Principal Service.	
Church of England -	161	485	71,345	43,154	27,468
Roman Catholics* -	94	454	89,466	61,902	40,693
Presbyterians - -	156	677	75,960	65,740	37,023
Wesleyans - -	140	828	129,070	92,930	82,454
Independents - -	48	93	16,261	8,395	9,708
Baptists* - -	40	78	13,430	9,255	10,723
Bible Christians* -	16	101	9,125	4,150	6,449
Evangelical Lutherans	12	37	4,680	3,035	2,576
Welsh Calvinists -	2	6	1,400	400	824
Church of Christ -	14	29	3,515	1,831	2,989
Other Christians -	11	18	2,540	1,075	3,955
Jews - - -	9	7	1,759	605	1,433
Other sects - -	—	2	1,500	1,300	48
Total - -	703	2,815	420,051	293,772	226,343

* Figures, except those of the number of clergymen, stated to be only approximate.

VICTORIA.

Increase or decrease in churches, clergy, &c.

250. The returns, as compared with those of the previous year, show an increase of 19 in the number of clergy, and of 3,241 in the number of services performed. They also show an increase of 100 in the number of places of worship, but a falling-off, equal to that for over 15,000 persons in the accommodation they contained, and a reduction of nearly 5,000 in the congregations at the principal services on the sabbath.

Diminution in church accommodation explained.

251. With reference to the diminished accommodation shown by the returns, it must be remembered that the buildings used for holding divine worship are not only those specially constructed with that object, but halls, school-houses, and sometimes even private dwellings, and the same edifices are not always used from year to year. It does not therefore follow, because more places of worship are returned, that the sitting accommodation should increase in a similar ratio or even that it should not become less.

Matriculated students.

252. The number of students who matriculated at the Melbourne University in 1878 was 114, as against 103 in the previous year. The matriculations in 1878 were more numerous than in any year since the University was opened except in 1874 when they numbered 118. From the opening of the University to the end of 1878 the total number of students who matriculated was 1,213.

Attendance at lectures.

253. In 1878 as compared with 1877 an increase of 45, and as compared with 1876 an increase of 80, took place in the number of students attending lectures. The numbers in the year under review attending lectures in the different subjects taught at the university were as follow. It will be observed that the greatest number were medical students :—

Melbourne University Students, 1878.

Subject of Lectures.	Number of Students attending Lectures.		
	Matriculated.	Non-matriculated.	Total.
Arts - - - -	57	2	59
Laws - - - -	73	—	73
Engineering - - -	32	—	32
Medicine - - -	90	4	94
Total - - -	252*	6	258

Graduates.

254. In 1878 the number of graduates was 30, of whom 24 took direct and 6 *ad eundem* degrees. The direct graduates numbered 26 in 1877 and 28 in 1876. The *ad eundem* graduates numbered 5 in 1877 and 10 in 1876. The following table shows the num-

* These were not all distinct individuals. The number of under-graduates attending lectures in 1878, each under-graduate being counted only once, was 247.

ber of degrees conferred at the University between the date of its first opening and the end of 1877, and also those in the year 1878 :—

*Melbourne University Graduates,** 1855 *to* 1878.

Degrees.	Prior to 1878.			During 1878.			Total.		
	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.	Direct.	Ad eundem.	Total.
Bachelor of Arts -	124	51	175	9	1	10	133	52	185
Master of Arts -	71	73	144	4	2	6	75	75	150
Bachelor of Medicine	41	6	47	3	1	4	44	7	51
Doctor of Medicine -	11	59	70	1	1	2	12	60	72
Bachelor of Laws -	45	5	50	6	—	6	51	5	56
Doctor of Laws -	1	12	13	1	1	2	2	13	15
Total - -	293	206	499	24	6	30	317	212	529

Public schools.

255. The present Education Act (36 Vict. No. 447), providing free instruction of a secular character to all willing to accept it, but prescribing that, whether willing to accept State education or not, all children must be educated up to a certain standard, came into operation on the 1st January 1873. The following is a statement of the number of schools aided or supported by the State, and of the instructors and scholars in such schools at the end of the year prior to and of each of the years which have elapsed since that period : —

Public Schools, 1872 *to* 1878.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.		
			On the Rolls.	In average Attendance.	Distinct Children (estimated).†
1872	1,048	2,416	135,962	68,436	113,120
1873	1,078	3,149	207,826	98,746	172,911
1874	1,111	3,715	216,144	104,375	179,832
1875	1,320	3,826	220,533	101,495	183,484
1876	1,498	3,772	231,560	106,758	192,658
1877	1,626	3,860	234,519	116,015	194,994
1878	1,664	3,906	231,169	116,608	189,455

* The figures in this table do not always refer to distinct individuals. The total number of graduates was only 395, of these 280 received 1 degree only, 97 received 2 degrees, 17 received 3 degrees, and 1 received 4 degrees.

† The figures in this column, from 1872 to 1878, were obtained by reducing the numbers on the rolls by 16·8 per cent., which was thought by the Education Department to be a fair allowance for children attending more than one school. In 1878, however, that Department ascertained that a fair reduction of the numbers on the rolls of day schools would be 16·163 per cent, and of night schools 43·65 per cent., on which basis the estimate of distinct children in 1878 was arrived at.

Falling off in scholars at night schools.

256. It should be stated that of the falling off in 1878 of the number of children enrolled, which amounts to about 1½ per cent., nearly half is chargeable to night schools, which enrolled 1,591 scholars, or 9 per cent. less than during the previous year. The enrolment of day scholars shows a decrease of 1,759, being a falling off of not quite 1 per cent. on the enrolment of 1877.

Withdrawal of capitation schools.

257. The falling off in 1878 in the numbers on the rolls is attributed by the Education Department chiefly to the fact that the capitation schools, 30 in number, were disconnected from the State at the end of 1877, but were generally carried on as private establishments, and a considerable number of their old pupils continued to attend them; also, that the duplicate attendances were fewer in 1878 than in the previous year.

Increase in average attendance.

258. The average attendance at public schools in 1878 was higher than in any previous year, and exhibited an increase of ½ per cent. on the attendance in 1877. If the day schools be regarded separately the increase in average attendance amounts to ¾ per cent., whilst in night schools a falling off is shown of 4⅓ per cent.

Private schools, 1872 to 1878.

259. The following is a statement, according to returns collected by the municipal bodies under the Local Government Statute (38 Vict., No. 506), of the number of private schools, of the instructors employed therein, and of the scholars attending during the seven years ended with 1878:

Private Schools, 1872 *to* 1878.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Scholars.*
1872 - - -	888	1,841	24,781
1873 - -	653	1,446	18,428
1874 - - -	610	1,509	22,448
1875 - - -	565	1,511	27,481
1876 - - -	645	1,646	28,847
1877 - - -	530	1,457	28,422
1878 - - -	596	1,702	37,582

* The numbers given are those upon the school rolls at the time of the collector's visit, which is generally in the month of February or March of the years following those named in the first column of the table.

VICTORIA.

Public and private schools.

260. If, for the seven years the totals shown in the public schools table* be added to those in the table relating to private schools, the growth of the school system since the year prior to that in which the Education Act came into operation will be readily observed.

Public and Private Schools, 1872 *to* 1878.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Instructors.	Number of Distinct Scholars.
1872 - - -	1,936	4,257	137,901
1873 - - -	1,731	4,595	191,339
1874 - - -	1,721	5,224	202,280
1875 - - -	1,885	5,337	210,965
1876 - - -	2,143	5,418	221,505
1877 - - -	2,156	5,317	223,416
1878 - - -	2,260	5,608	227,037

Increase of schools, &c.

261. By comparing the first and last lines of the table, it appears that in 1878 there were 324 more schools, with 1,151 more teachers, and 89,136 more children, than there were in the year prior to that in which the present State school system was introduced.

Increase or decrease in 1878.

262. As compared with the previous year, the schools in 1878 increased by 104, the instructors by 291, and the scholars by 3,621.

Scholars and others at school age.

263. The age prescribed by law as that at which children shall attend school is from 6 to 14 years last birthday, both inclusive. The average number of children at this age living in Victoria during the year 1878, may be estimated to have been 205,460. If this be correct, the following would be the numbers and per-centage receiving and not receiving education:—

Children at School Age receiving and not receiving Educatio ı, 1878.

	Numbers.	Per-centage.
Being educated - -	189,377	92·17
Not being educated - -	16,083	7·83
Total at school age (estimated)	205,460	100·00

* See table following paragraph 255, *ante*.

VICTORIA.

Proportion of scholars at school age.

264. By these figures it would appear that all but $7\frac{4}{5}$ per cent. of the children at the school age were attending school during some portion of 1878. It should, however, be borne in mind that the estimate of the total number of children at that age, although based upon the best information obtainable, is not absolutely to be relied upon. Should there be more children, the proportion being educated would, of course, be smaller, and should there be fewer, it would be greater than that here given.

Victorian Year Book.

265. For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book,* 1878–9."

HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER,
Government Statist of Victoria.

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* This is an official publication by the Government Statist, published annually, and may be obtained from John Ferres, Government printer, Melbourne, or George Robertson, 17, Warwick Square, London.

Digest of the Statistics of the Colony of Victoria for the Year 1879.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1869 to 1878 inclusive.

Year.	Population on 31st December.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigration.	Emigration.	General Revenue.*	General Expenditure.*	Crown Land Sales.†		Land in Cultivation.	Live Stock.				Postage.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.								Area sold.	Amount realised.		Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	No. of Post Offices.	Number of Letters.	No. of Newspapers.
									£	£	Acres.	£	Acres.							
1869	699,790	385,561	314,229	26,040	10,630	4,735	33,570	22,418	3,383,984	3,226,165	725,110	794,543	827,534	161,830	692,518	9,923,663	111,464	651	10,582,711	5,251,327
1870	726,599	398,755	327,844	27,151	10,420	4,732	32,554	21,087	3,261,883	3,428,382	337,507	463,821	909,015	167,220	721,096	10,761,887	130,946	677	11,133,283	5,287,482
1871	752,445	412,009	340,436	27,382	9,918	4,693	28,333	19,951	1,691,266*	1,754,251*	378,516	528,119	937,220	181,643	799,509	10,002,381	177,447	706	11,716,166	5,172,970
1872	770,727	419,903	350,824	27,361	10,831	4,791	27,047	25,295	3,734,422	3,659,534	752,161	859,142	963,091	185,796	812,289	10,575,219	193,722	733	12,941,095	5,400,772
1873	790,492	430,042	360,450	28,100	11,501	4,974	29,460	26,294	3,644,135	3,504,953	529,309	621,472	964,996	180,342	883,763	11,323,080	160,336	764	14,475,085	6,080,007
1874	808,437	439,159	369,278	26,800	12,222	4,925	30,732	27,365	4,106,790	4,177,338	531,538	579,051	1,011,776	180,254	958,658	11,221,036	137,941	802	15,738,888	6,866,918
1875	823,272	447,148	376,124	26,720	15,287	4,985	32,744	29,342	4,236,423	4,318,121	418,561	630,054	1,126,831	196,184	1,054,598	11,749,532	140,765	855	17,184,101	7,552,912
1876	840,300	456,463	383,837	26,769	13,561	4,949	35,797	31,977	4,325,156	4,572,844	476,038	584,913	1,231,105	194,768	1,128,265	11,278,893	175,578	886	18,963,503	9,010,147
1877	860,787	467,741	393,046	26,010	12,776	5,103	41,196	33,943	4,723,877	4,358,096	323,082	375,494	1,420,502	203,150	1,174,176	10,114,267	183,391	948	20,910,958	9,809,064
1878	879,442	478,316	401,126	26,581	12,702	5,092	42,268	37,492	4,504,413	4,634,349	307,457	375,535	1,609,278	210,105	1,184,843	9,379,276	177,373	1,007	22,324,931	10,697,331

* The figures of Revenue and Expenditure are for the year ended 31st December of each year until 1871, when the financial year was changed so as to terminate on the 30th June. The figures for 1871 are therefore for the six months ended 30th June, and the figures for subsequent years are for the twelve months ended 30th June.

† In addition to the quantity of land sold and amount realized within the year, the figures under the head "Land Sales" represent, during each of the years after 1868, the total extent of, and amount paid on, lands purchased under deferred payments of which the payments were completed within the year, although such payments had extended over a series of years. The extent selected, of which the purchase had not been completed, is not included in the area sold. This amounted at the end of 1877 to 7,055,045 acres. Lands granted without purchase are also excluded.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1869 to 1878 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Shipping.				Vessels built.		Vessels registered.		Mortgages and Liens.		Imports.	Imports of		Exports.	Exports of						
	Inwards.		Outwards.									Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).			Wool.†		Tallow.		Hides and Skins.	Breadstuffs (Wheat, Flour, Bread, and Biscuit).	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Amount secured.	Total Value.	Quantity.*	Value.	Total Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.*	Value.
										£	£	Bushels.	£	£	lbs.		lbs.	£	£	Bush.	£
1869	2,320	721,274	2,334	730,961	7	303	45	9,006	4,036	4,701,485	13,908,990	810,987	233,88	13,464,354	54,431,367	3,363,075	14,259,616	237,084	60,461	91,398	28,368
1870	2,093	663,764	2,187	681,098	5	667	29	5,503	4,410	4,203,743	12,455,758	104,224	25,249	12,470,014	52,123,451	3,205,106	22,158,080	358,863	33,649	199,878	52,941
1871	2,137	663,002	2,257	692,023	8	837	46	11,015	4,849	4,278,197	12,341,995	1,295,015	385,325	14,557,820	76,334,480	4,702,164	30,422,672	469,069	39,858	115,432	37,864
1872	2,104	666,336	2,234	694,426	10	478	42	8,146	5,151	4,076,229	13,691,322	585,688	179,352	13,871,195	58,648,977	4,651,665	22,656,088	353,358	49,169	195,725	62,058
1873	2,187	756,103	2,226	762,912	3	187	50	12,640	5,155	5,248,365	16,533,856	65,167	16,204	15,302,454	74,893,882	5,738,638	15,373,120	233,091	53,659	203,255	68,539
1874	2,100	777,110	2,122	792,509	5	1,083	44	12,522	5,929	6,019,904	16,953,985	136,004	37,078	15,441,109	88,662,284	6,373,676	13,591,760	199,564	56,993	176,718	63,399
1875	2,171	840,386	2,223	833,499	24	1,762	53	8,519	6,035	4,542,569	16,685,874	284,605	71,137	14,766,974	85,064,952	6,096,958	13,910,736	203,243	50,454	84,236	36,076
1876	2,086	810,062	2,150	847,026	23	1,013	42	8,484	6,417	5,081,387	15,705,354	355,704	96,007	14,196,487	106,265,877	6,413,754	11,424,000	174,507	59,052	96,773	40,542
1877	2,192	939,661	2,219	935,324	7	425	26	6,588	6,510	4,706,138	16,362,304	80,166	24,370	15,157,687	98,468,208	5,670,871	6,048,000	90,455	35,570	464,284	73,960
1878	2,119	951,750	2,173	961,677	11	509	33	6,421	9,655	6,233,752	16,161,880	59,420	14,699	14,925,797	101,809,809	5,810,148	7,387,520	103,879	29,123	1,065,388	311,670

* The quantities of flour, bread, and biscuit imported and exported are reduced to their equivalent in bushels, on the assumption that one bushel of wheat produces 45 lbs. of either of those articles.

† Since the year 1864 a considerable quantity of wool has each year been imported into Victoria across the Murray, from the Riverina district of New South Wales, for transport by railway to Melbourne and shipment thence. Prior to 1872 no precise record of the quantity so introduced was kept at the Customs. It has, however, been ascertained that at least 13,000,000 lbs. of wool, valued at 972,000*l.*, crossed the Murray into Victoria in the year 1870, and the following amounts in the years named:—19,552,598 lbs., valued at 1,096,772*l.*, in 1872; 31,542,913 lbs., valued at 1,745,550*l.*, in 1873; 35,332,089 lbs., valued at 1,975,879*l.*, in 1874; 40,535,081 lbs., valued at 2,260,799*l.*, in 1875; 44,430,185 lbs., valued at 2,039,009*l.*, in 1876; 37,647,218 lbs., valued at 1,661,868*l.* in 1877; and 43,357,702 lbs., valued at 2,081,368*l.* in 1878.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1869 to 1878 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Gold Raised.		Public Debt on Dec. 31.	Government Expenditure* on					Railways.†			Electric Telegraphs.			Banks of Issue.			
	Quantity.	Value at 4*l.* per oz.		Railways.†	Roads and Bridges.	Melbourne Water Supply (Yan Yean).	Other Waterworks.	Other Public Works.	Miles Opened.	Train Miles Travelled.	Total Receipts.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams.	Number of Banks.	Paid-up Capital.	Assets.	Liabilities.
	oz.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			£					£	£	£
1869	1,337,296	5,349,184	10,385,900	104,612	90,735	29,795	152,775	267,603	271	1,563,274	758,470	91	3,368	276,742	10	8,347,500	17,665,861	11,956,575
1870	1,222,798	4,891,192	11,924,800	192,420	36,832	20,716	93,553	191,573	274	1,495,719	699,273	95	3,371	454,598‡	10	8,305,224	16,866,405	12,357,571
1871	1,355,477	5,421,908	11,994,800	242,508	35,328	11,501	97,176	97,088	276	917,960	401,389	96	3,472	537,398	10	8,276,250	17,222,093	12,862,650
1872	1,282,521	5,130,084	11,984,800	566,831	42,192	9,140	17,945	264,761	329	1,571,682	771,638	117	3,634	639,960	10	8,276,250	18,125,902	13,935,047
1873	1,241,205	4,964,820	12,445,722	853,179	38,126	24,213	227,427	186,464	377	1,766,717	857,745	135	3,928	718,167	10	8,366,250	19,943,959	14,092,995
1874	1,155,972	4,623,888	13,990,553	816,616	102,922	70,893	212,378	390,955	457½	2,109,227	1,016,925	148	4,293	701,080	11	8,503,033	20,456,852	14,105,460
1875	1,095,787	4,383,148	13,995,093	984,624	99,451	81,404	95,672	350,159	603	2,502,838	1,091,937	164	4,510	732,869	12	8,572,120	22,279,482	15,483,172
1876	963,760	3,855,040	17,011,382	1,481,800	66,690	80,141	142,354	348,596	719	4,015,197	1,730,034	181	4,745	801,946	12	8,630,745	23,918,123	16,527,277
1877	809,653	3,238,612	17,018,913	1,019,201	16,759	39,565	170,374	258,638	950	3,271,007	1,319,638	206	5,200	919,985	13	8,756,894	26,258,439	18,183,119
1878	775,272	3,101,088	17,022 065	935,666	11,888	86,229	34,512	313,039	1,052	3,633,190	1,391,701	233	5,404	1,003,654	13	9,188,653	26,096,185	17,715,867

* Prior to 1871 the expenditure was for the year ended 31st December. The figures for 1871 relate to the first six months only. Since that date they have been for the year ended 30th June, except as regards the Railway expenditure which in 1876 and subsequent years has been brought down to the 31st December. The figures do not include in any case amounts expended by municipal governments.

† These returns are those of the Government and private railways combined. The former are, until 1870, for the year ended 31st December; in 1871 for the six months ended 30th June; in 1872 and three following years for the twelve months ended 30th June; in 1876 for the eighteen months and in the years after 1876 for the twelve months ended 31st December. The returns of private railways are for the year ended 31st December throughout.

‡ The increase in the number of telegrams commencing in 1870 was consequent on a reduction in the rates.

Statistical Summary of Victoria from 1869 to 1878 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Savings Banks.*			Friendly Societies.†		Cities, Towns, and Boroughs.			Shires and Road Districts.			Flour Mills.	Manufactories, Works, &c. (exclusive of Flour Mills).	Mining Machines.	Churches and Chapels.	Schools.		Melbourne University.		Number of Persons			
	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Balances.	Number of Branches.	Average Number of Members.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.	Number.	Total Value of Rateable Property.	Revenue.					Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Number of Matriculated Students.	Number of Direct Graduates.	Taken into Custody.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted after Commitment.	Executed.
			£				£	£		£	£												
1869	110	37,494	978,619	507	32,091	63	21,630,909	423,984	108	24,429,873	534,123	149	1,381	6,561	1,967	1,722	151,844	53	17	24,770	842	486	3
1870	123	41,738	1,047,147	592	34,224	65	22,607,630	386,676	108	25,322,054	528,881	147	1,432	6,418	2,134	1,867	154,353	82	10	23,790	908	573	5
1871	134	45,819	1,117,761	590	35,706	63	23,268,410	406,101	108	26,897,668	522,033	154	1,586	6,054	2,210	2,050	165,276	93	19	22,800	781	511	2
1872	141	52,749	1,405,738	683	42,401	60	23,929,035	391,936	110	29,105,169	541,817	163	1,607	5,779	2,295	1,936	160,743	88	14	23,705	688	430	2
1873	151	58,547	1,498,618	720	44,602	60	25,391,990	410,508	110	31,415,663	529,426	157	1,646	5,699	2,284	1,731	226,254	98	21	24,959	729	450	5
1874	157	64,014	1,617,301	710	42,664	60	27,324,605	449,574	110	34,897,034	535,440	161	1,943	5,220	2,455	1,721	238,592	118	24	23,856	694	436	—
1875	162	65,837	1,469,849	757	45,920	59	28,123,803	462,323	108	39,803,055	638,962	157	2,084	5,098	2,519	1,885	248,014	93	29	25,247	744	427	4
1876	170	69,027	1,507,235	761	45,957	59	29,638,515	446,256	110	46,143,622	595,146	152	2,150	4,893	2,602	2,143	260,407	73	28	25,281	680	384	3
1877	177	73,245	1,575,305	703	43,330	59	29,332,930	459,108	111	48,282,719	535,496	150	2,220	4,540	2,715	2,156	262,941	103	26	26,532	594	340	1
1878	184	76,697	1,510,273	756	45,661	59	31,887,816	453,665	112	52,545,666	455,593	149	2,194	4,428	2,815	2,256	268,251	114	24	25,544	658	458	—

* Post Office Savings Banks were first opened in 1865. The returns for the Post Office Savings Banks are for the years ended 31st December, those for the ordinary Savings Banks are for the years ended 30th June.

† These figures do not give particulars of all the Friendly Societies in the Colony, but only of such as furnished returns in each year.

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, Government Statist.

TASMANIA.

No. 4.

Governor WELD, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Hobart Town,
October 24, 1879.

SIR,

IN reference to your Despatch of 19th July 1879, I do myself the honour, in transmitting to you the volume of statistics of Tasmania for 1878, to say, that it has only just been published and placed in my hands. I had already called the attention of ministers to the desirability of having the annual statistics compiled and published at an earlier period of each year as is done in Crown Colonies, and I shall not fail to do so again.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. A. WELD,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

To the Honourable the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,
September 4, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to place in your hands the statistics of this Colony for the year 1878, and to offer such observations thereon as may seem necessary in order to present a clear view of the condition of the Colony during that year.

Passing over the "Blue Book," which forms Part I., we come to—

II.—POPULATION.

To arrive at a trustworthy estimate of the changes in the population in the past year was found to be a matter of considerable difficulty. In accordance with the principle laid down by the Statistical Conference of 1875, the *emigration* from this Colony to the other Colonies of this group should have been ascertained by reference to the returns of *immigration* furnished by them; and this method was accordingly at first adopted. But finding that it gave an excess of 29 on the side of the departures,*

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* Thus:—

Departures from Tasmania, returned as "arrivals" in Victoria and New South Wales - - - - -	9,553
Arrivals in Tasmania, by Tasmanian returns - - -	9,524
Excess of departures -	29

TASMANIA.

and remembering that the balance in the previous year was on the other side, and being therefore not satisfied of the correctness of the result thus brought out, I resolved to test both sets of figures, so far as Victoria and New South Wales were concerned, by the passenger lists of the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company, which were kindly lent to me for the purpose. These did not show the numbers exactly in all instances (children being converted into "statute adults," and families being sometimes grouped *en masse*), but they served sufficiently well to effect the object for which they were consulted—that of ascertaining *approximately* the proportions between the arrivals and departures, which was found to be as 8,185 to 7,310,—giving a preponderance of 875 to the arrivals. This preponderance was increased by the returns of the Tasmanian Customs Department to 1,041, which, however, is probably to some extent too large, since some of the departures must always be omitted, in consequence of some persons not taking their passages and being placed on the passenger lists before leaving. Such being the case, there were two possible methods of dealing with the matter, the one being to accept the figures furnished by the department here as they stood, the other to find the numbers of the departures by calculation from the arrivals according to the ratio before mentioned. Believing that the result from the former method is not very wide of the truth, I have adopted it on this occasion.

Proceeding on this basis, we find that the population of the Colony on the 31st December last was 109,947, of whom 58,036 were males, and 51,911 females; the increase by excess of births over deaths being 1,802, by excess of immigration over emigration (as before stated), 1,041. The addition to the population during the year would thus have been 2,843, or 2·65 per cent.

The mean population, or that at the middle of the year, which is used for statistical purposes, was 108,525.

Immigration and Emigration.

Of the 9,524 persons who were added to the population *ab extra* in 1878, 6,102 were adult males, 2,601 adult females, and 821 children of mixed sexes. Of the 8,483 who emigrated to other countries 5,490 were males, 2,362 females, and 631 children whose sex was not distinguished.

The per-centage of male and female adults was therefore:—

—	Males.	Females.
Immigrants - - - - -	72	28
Emigrants - - - - -	70	30

The proportion of men who arrived in the Colony was greater therefore than that of those who left it.

The balances of population (being the excess of immigrants over emigrants, or *vice versâ*) were as follows:—

—	In favour of Tasmania.	Against Tasmania.
Victoria - - - - -	838	—
New South Wales - - - -	249	—
South Australia - - - -	—	11
New Zealand - - - -	—	39
Other countries - - - -	4	—

Taking the inward and outward movements together, the proportions to every 100 persons were these:—

From and to	Victoria - -	89·14
	New South Wales -	7·81
	South Australia -	0·13
	New Zealand - -	2·74
	Other countries -	0·18

In comparing these movements with those of the previous year I deem it prudent, under the circumstances, to take the immigration only. In 1878 this was 9,524; in 1877, 9,717, or 193 in excess of 1878. From Victoria in 1878 there were 237 passengers fewer than in 1877; from New South Wales 140 more; from Queensland none, against 9 in 1877; from South Australia 6 fewer; from New Zealand 82 more; from the United Kingdom 2 fewer; and from other countries 6 fewer.

Assisted Immigration.

Under the system of assisted immigration (or "bounty system") there were introduced last year 44 persons, against 7 in 1877.

Naturalization.

Thirteen persons were naturalised in 1878, the number being less by two than in the year before.

III.—Trade, Commerce, and Navigaton.

Imports.

The value of goods imported in 1878 was 1,324,812*l.*, being greater by 16,141*l.* than in 1877. The rate per head of population was 12*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, against 12*l.* 6*s.* 2¾*d.* in 1877.

Since the statistics for the latter year were published, I have had prepared a return of the values of the principal articles imported in the 10 years from 1869 to 1878 inclusively; and this will, I believe, be of considerable use.

An inspection of it brings out some interesting facts, which may serve to throw light upon the condition of the Colony during the period to which it refers. Thus the value of apparel and slops declined from 26,165*l.* to 11,795*l.*; of hats and caps (doubt-

TASMANIA.

less in consequence of being displaced by home manufactured articles) from 3,526*l.* to 1,565*l.*, and in 1877 to 923*l.*; of hops from 6,090*l.* to 2,240*l.* That of hides and skins increased from 7,228*l.* to 16,794*l.* in 1874, and then declined to 4,887*l.* in 1878.

Most of the other articles show a satisfactory, and some even a large increase far more than in proportion to the growth of population. The most noticeable of these are—

—	1869.	1878.	Increase per cent.*
	£	£	
Boots and shoes	22,258	25,162	13·04
Candles	1,823	6,302	245·69
Carpets and rugs (averages of five years each)	5,989	10,580	76·65
Coal and coke	9,423	27,007	186·60
Confectionery	2,953	7,226	144·70
Drapery	223,940	314,473	40·43
Earthen and glass ware (averages)	9,542	15,874	66·36
Flour	—	3,875	—
Wheat (averages)	3,378	7,145	111·52
Fruits (dried)	4,128	8,458	104·90
Furniture	1,264	5,876	364·88
Iron and tin, ironmongery, cutlery, &c.	63,694	119,661	87·87
Jewellery and plate	8,141	18,513	127·40
Live stock—Horses	1,315	14,551	1006·54
Machinery and Mills	4,825	19,032	294·44
Manure	5,573	22,522	303·43
Medicines and drugs	9,874	13,225	33·93
Musical instruments	4,425	13,027	194·40
Oilmen's stores	6,178	13,289	115·10
Room and other papers	1,354	12,090	792·90
Rice	2,228	5,622	152·33
Saddlery and leatherware	2,912	11,658	300·34
Spirits and cordials	23,817	29,772	25·00
Stationery	25,387	44,030	73·44
Sugar	94,875	165,968†	74·93
Timber	8,438	13,342	58·11

In some cases the increase may have been partially caused by changes in the classification in consequence of the alterations in the tariff in 1870 and 1873, and a rise of prices (or, what comes to the same thing, a depreciation in the value of money) may also have have had some share in it; but, making all reasonable allowance for these influences, it seems clear that the demand for commodities is generally greater than it was at the beginning of the decennium. The increase is not so much in such articles as tea, coffee, fermented liquors, tobacco, as in other things.

Exports.

The value of commodities exported in 1878 was 1,315, 695*l.*, or 101,280*l.* less than in 1877. The rate per head of population was 12*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.*, that of 1877 having been 13*l.* 6*s.* 7¼*d.* The rate of

* The increase of population being 7·29 per cent.

† In consequence of jam making.

exports as well as of imports was higher in 1878 than in any of the last 10 years, with the exception of 1877.

Of the exports 97·90 per cent., or 1,288,011*l.*, was the produce of the Colony, and 2·10 per cent., or 27,684*l.*, the produce of other countries.

On comparing the quantities of articles exported in the 10 years, we find a decrease in bark during the last three years. Of butter and cheese only 196 cwts. were sent out of the Colony in 1878, against 1,658 in the previous year. The quantity has never been so small in any other year of the period. The same was the case with cereals. Of flour only 25 tons were exported, against 223 tons in the previous year; of wheat only 6,497 bushels, against 98,267 bushels in 1877; of oats only 151,634 bushels, against 336,346; and of barley, 22,768 bushels, against 30,749. The export of barley was, however, above the quantity shipped in six of the ten years. Hides, skins, and leather also showed a considerable decrease; as did hops, sheep, oatmeal, sperm oil, and vegetables. On gold there was an increase from 10,278 ozs. in 1876 (the largest quantity previously) to 15,305 ozs. The export of jam was the largest that has ever been made from the Colony, being 3,981,450 lbs. The manufacture of jam for this purpose has been steadily increasing for many years. In 1869 the quantity exported was only 1,595,331 lbs.; having thus increased in 10 years by 2,386,119 lbs., or 149 per cent. The export of green fruit in 1878 was, however, the smallest in the period. That of tin (smelted) was 4,146 tons, or 1,925 tons (equal to nearly 87 per cent.) above that of 1877; the quantity of ore being only 1,801 tons, against 3,526. The quantity of wool sent away was about half a million of pounds less than in 1877; but this is to be explained by extraordinary shipments in that year. The season's clip of wool for five years, formed by taking the exports up to the end of November in each following year, was as shown below.

	lbs.
Clip of 1877 - - - -	7,599,033
„ 1876 - - - -	7,058,393
„ 1875 - - - -	6,629,211
„ 1874 - - - -	6,054,485
„ 1873 - - - -	5,480,890

The values of the principal articles of home produce exported in 1878 were as follows:—

	£		£
Wool - -	479,165	Timber - -	72,989
Tin, smelted and unsmelted - -	316,311	Gold - -	59,124
Fruit and jam -	151,468	Hops - -	33,096
		Oats - - -	28,963

Commerce with various Countries.

As regards the commerce of this Colony with other countries in 1878, we observe these facts:—

TASMANIA.

With the United Kingdom.—Imports in 1878, 373,466*l.*; in 1877, 377,499*l.* The value was greater in 1869, 1873, 1874, 1875, and 1877. Exports, 1878, 639,764 ; 1877, 632,741*l.* These have almost uniformly increased year by year during the whole decennium, the difference being nearly 100 per cent. on the value of 1869.

With Victoria.—Imports, 1878, 713,822*l.* ; 1877, 736,804*l.* Here, too, there has been generally an increase. Exports, 1878, 309,659*l.*; 1877, 316,729*l.* Those for 1878 were exceeded during the 10 years only in 1869 and 1877.

With New South Wales.—Here the increase in both imports and exports has been remarkable. Imports, 1878, 89,053*l.*; 1877, 79,644*l.*; 1869, 34,764*l.* The difference between the first and last years being 54,289*l.*, or 156 per cent. Exports, 1878, 241,196*l.*; 1877, 342,590*l.* The amount in 1877 was quite abnormal; with this exception, the value in 1878 was the largest in the period. In 1869 it was only 82,426*l.*, the increase as between the first and last years being 192 per cent. That this increase is not solely the effect of shipping tin ore to Sydney, to be smelted there, will be plain from an inspection of the following figures :—

Years.	Total Value of Exports.	Value of Tin Ore.	Value of other Articles.
	£	£	£
1869	82,426	—	82,426
1870	83,542	—	83,542
1871	86,119	—	86,119
1872	99,552	—	99,552
1873	132,203	—	132,203
1874	134,326	—	134,326
1875	159,405	—	159,405
1876	175,477	18,377	157,100
1877	342,590	146,148	196,442
1878	241,196	67,212	173,984

With New Zealand.—Imports, 1878, 20,680*l.*; 1877, 7,998*l.*; 1869, 2,115*l.*, being an increase on 1869 of nearly 878 per cent. The value for 1878 was, however, quite exceptional. Exports, 1878, 92,411*l.*; 1869, 41,272*l.*; the tendency being upward on the whole, with a few breaks in the continuity of the line.

With Queensland the trade has been irregular, but on the whole improving. The imports increased from 3,705*l.* in 1869 to 10,400*l.* in 1878; the exports from 8,788*l.* in 1869 to 21,608*l.* in 1877, whence they fell to 5,985*l.* in 1878.

With South Australia.—Imports trifling and irregular ; exports considerably larger and improving.

With Mauritius.—Almost the only article in which Tasmania trades with this Colony is sugar, of which the supply is of course proportioned to the growth of population and the extension of the manufacture of jam.

Our commercial transactions with other countries are so small that they may be passed over without comment.

Before leaving the subject of our foreign trade, it may not be without use to make a passing reference to a matter which is of considerable importance in regard to comparative statistics, the valuation of goods for Customs purposes. The only countries with which our Colony does much business are three, the United Kingdom, Victoria, and New South Wales. On comparing the customs returns of Tasmania with those of these countries, we have the following results:—

	Per cent. greater (+), or less (−) than by Tasmanian Returns.	
	Imports into Tasmania.	Exports from Tasmania.
United Kingdom (1872–77)	− 27·76	− 9·50
Victoria 1877	− 33·92	− 3·75
Victoria 1876	− 31·10	− 9·55
New South Wales 1877	− 28·22	+ ·28
New South Wales 1876	− 27·33	+ ·01

In regard to imports into the Colony these results seem reasonable enough, the difference being probably no greater than can be fairly accounted for by cost of transport, insurance, duty, wharfage, &c., but why Tasmanian exports should be returned as lower in value in the United Kingdom and Victoria than in Tasmania, notwithstanding the charges for freight and other expenses of transit, and why, under the same circumstances, the reverse should be the case in New South Wales it is not easy to understand. I now note the fact in order that the attention of statisticians may be directed to it.

The value of imports and exports combined, in 1878 was 2,640,507*l.*, being 85,139*l.* below that of 1877.

Goods in Bond.

Comparing the quantities of goods in bond on the 31st December in the years 1878 and 1877 respectively, we find that the stock of beef and pork, candles, coffee, drapery, malt liquor in wood and in quarts, paints, sago, spirits (Geneva), and starch was smaller in the former year; while of most of the other important articles of consumption, such as chicory, cigars, dried fruits, malt liquors (pints), oil and varnish, and especially rice, sugar, tea, and tobacco the supply was much larger.

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of shipping inwards in 1878 were very nearly the same as in 1877, though slightly less. The actual figures were these:—

TASMANIA.

Number.	1877.	1878.
Sailing vessels - - - -	448	450
Steamers - - - - -	230	243
	678	693

Tonnage.	1877.	1878.
Sailing vessels - - - -	75,574	68,304
Steamers - - - - -	83,734	90,759
	159,308	159,063

Of the above, 159 vessels, of 16,887 tons, entered in ballast.
The number and tonnage outwards were :—

Number.	1877.	1878.
Sailing vessels - - - -	456	451
Steamers - - - - -	224	237
	680	688

Tonnage.	1877.	1878.
Sailing vessels - - - -	76,419	67,853
Steamers - - - - -	83,790	88,938
	160,209	156,791

The number of vessels outwards in ballast was 34, of 9,728 tons.

The following shows what proportion of shipping entered and cleared at each port and sub-port in the same two years :—

	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	1877.	1878.	1877.	1878.
Hobart Town - -	79,480	85,537	82,827	82,499
Launceston - -	57,182	54,534	55,097	55,372
Stanley - - -	8,582	8,238	8,209	8,011
Wynyard - -	2,304	2,951	2,208	2,824
Ulverstone - -	4,208	4,451	4,221	4,663
Torquay - - -	7,552	3,352	7,647	3,422
	159,308	159,063	160,209	156,791

The total quantity of shipping both ways was,—in 1878, 315,854; in 1877, 319,517; showing a decrease of 1·15 per cent.

As between 1869 and 1878 there was an increase in the total tonnage of 226,975, or 39·11 per cent.

The quantity of shipping on the registers on the 31st December in the last two years was:—

	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
1878 - - - - - -	217	20,104
1877 - - - - - -	207	19,065
Increase in 1878 - -	10	1,039

Included in the above were steamers:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
1878 - - - - - -	15	4,328
1877 - - - - - -	14	3,568
Increase in 1878 - -	1	760

In 1878 the steamers occupied about 21 per cent. of the total tonnage.

The tonnage of shipping built for sale during that year was considerably less than in the year before, the numbers being:—

	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1877 - - - - - -	4	322
1878 - - - - - -	5	263
Decrease - - -	—	59

Whale Fisheries.

The produce of the whale fisheries in 1878 was very small indeed, with the exception of 1875, the smallest in the 10 years, being 282 tuns, valued at 16,920*l.* In 1869 the value was returned as 48,910*l.* One vessel less was employed in 1878 than in 1877. In 1869, 17 vessels were thus employed.

Trades and Manufactories.

The return of trades, manufactories, and works in operation on 31st December last shows a reduction in the number specified from 3,232 in 1877 to 3,218, notwithstanding that clothing facto-

TASMANIA.

ries (9), and mills, hydraulic (1), were introduced for the first time. The decrease is pretty generally distributed throughout. On the following, however, there were increases:—bakers, blacksmiths, bricklayers, brickmakers, builders, candle manufactories, carpenters, coachmakers, engineers, fellmongers, furriers, gardeners (market), general dealers, grocers, hat and cap manufactories, hawkers, mills (horse), painters, &c., plasterers, potteries, stonemasons, tin smelting works, turners, and wheelwrights.

It was remarked before that the exports of butter and cheese were much smaller in the past year; and here we are informed that the number of cheesemakers had diminished from 64 to 43, the number at Fingal, the principal dairying district, from 38 to 15. It is much to be lamented that this should be the case, the more especially as it cannot be for want of a market, the demand for butter and cheese of good quality being always equal with, if not before, the supply. The cause is probably the difficulty of obtaining labour, and the want of knowledge how to carry on the business in the most profitable manner; for few industries seem to be better adapted to the circumstances of this Colony, and especially to the locality of Fingal, than dairy farming. The capital required is but moderate, and the returns are quick and certain. There seems to be a good prospect in this direction for enterprising persons possessed of the necessary qualifications.

Rates of Wages.

In the rates of wages there were no very remarkable differences as regards the previous year. Farm labour was generally somewhat cheaper, though the rate for mowers was higher, as also was that for shearers, as well as the wages of shepherds. The wages of domestic servants (males) were lower; those of female servants, with the exception of general servants, higher.

Prices.

It would be tedious to go through all the variations in the retail prices of commodities as between the last two years. The chief differences are in articles of home produce, and it will therefore be sufficient to deal with them. Flour, from 13*l.* 10*s.* to 18*l.* per ton, fell to 12*l.* 10*s.* to 14*l.*; bread, from 3½*d.* to 4*d.* the 2 lb. loaf, fell to 3*d.* to 3½*d.*; Coals, Jerusalem, from 25*s.* to 24*s.* per ton; firewood, from 14*s.* to 11*s.*; wheat (maximum), from 8*s.* to 6*s.* per bushel; milk, per quart (minimum), from 4*d.* to 3*d.*; potatoes, from a maximum of 6*l.* 10*s.* and minimum of 4*l.*, to 5*l.* 5*s.* and 1*l.* 10*s.* respectively.

The following increased in price: butter, fresh, from a range of 7*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* to one of 1*s.* to 1*s.* 9*d.*; cheese, minimum, from 8*d.* to 9*d.*; barley, from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* in 1877 to 5*s.* 9*d.* to 6*s.* in 1878; oats, from 2*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*; hay, from 3*l.* 15*s.* to 6*l.* rose from 6*l.* to 7*l.* per ton; carrots, from a maximum of 50*s.* to 60*s.*; while onions, which in 1877 ranged from 6*l.* to 10*l.*, in 1878 had a minimum and maximum of 6*l.* 10*s.* and 20*l.* respectively.

The contract prices of brandy, butchers' meat, butter (fresh), coffee, eggs, oatmeal, oil (black), rice, sago, salt, and soap, were higher in 1878; those of bread, flour, malt liquors, rum, sugar, tea, tobacco, and port wine were lower.

Gold Mining.

Gold mining was more actively pursued in 1878 than ever before. The average number of persons employed in this industry was 1,050; the next highest number having been 530 in 1872. The approximate value of mining plant was, in 1878, 46,000*l.*; in 1872, 19,500*l.* From alluvial operations 11,462 ounces of gold, valued at 45,750*l.*, were produced, against 4,020 ounces, valued at 15,768*l.*, in 1871, the highest yield previously.

The number of tons of quartz crushed in 1878 was 15,805, yielding 13,787 ounces of gold, valued at 54,250*l.*; the average value per ounce being 3*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, and the average yield per ton of quartz 17 dwts. 12 grs. The largest quantity of stone crushed previously in one year was 8,516 tons in 1877; the largest yield, 11,007 ounces, in 1876; and the highest average per ton, 1 oz. 8 dwts. 3 grs., in 1876. The total quantity of gold produced in 1878, so far as it could be ascertained, was 25,249 ounces, valued at 100,000*l.*

The Commissioner of Gold Fields, in a report (dated 4th September) furnished at my request, after referring to the impossibility of ascertaining the exact amount of alluvial gold obtained, and stating that the quantity returned was within the actual yield, thus proceeds:—

"Since the beginning of this year (1879) two important discoveries of gold in alluvial deposit have been made; one, near Mount Arthur, named by his Excellency the Governor Lisle, and the other at the Pieman River, near the West Coast. At Lisle mining operations are being carried on in a most active manner, and there cannot be less than 1,500 men employed. The gold is in shallow deposit, easily obtained, and is of a good quality. I roughly estimate that not less than 20,000 ounces have already been procured. As usual, the miners seldom sell more in the Colony than provides funds to pay current expenses, and many send large parcels by private hand to Melbourne, where it realises a higher price. Gold transmitted in this manner is seldom or never entered at the Customs, and I may here remark that the Customs returns of gold exported are therefore no indication whatever of the actual produce of the Colony in that metal. On the West Coast a limited number of miners are engaged, principally on the River Pieman, and several hundreds of ounces of gold of a very superior quality have been procured; but the almost inaccessible nature of the place, the extraordinarily rough and scrubby country, and the severely wet climate have prevented any extensive prospecting during the winter months.

"Several batteries have been erected at Beaconsfield to crush a species of auriferous conglomerate, locally termed cement, with every prospect of success.

TASMANIA.

"No change worthy of notice has taken place in the condition of the mining industry on any of the other gold fields since the close of 1878.

"The number of miners' rights issued since the 1st January last is 2,300, and I estimate there are 2,000 men engaged in gold mining pursuits throughout the Colony.

"Since writing the above I have ascertained the yield of gold from quartz since 1st January last to be 14,500 ounces, valued at about 58,000*l.*"

Mines.

The return of mines other than gold shows large differences as between 1878 and 1877. Of bluestone raised for building purposes, the quantity in 1878 was 1,218 tons and 450 cubic yards, against 850 cubic yards in 1877. Of coal the quantity raised in 1878 was 12,311 tons, being 2,841 tons, or 30 per cent. more than in the previous year. On flagstone there was a large decrease, the quantities being in 1877 and 1878, 27,166 and 13,000 cubic feet respectively. For freestone or stone of a similar kind for building there was a large demand in 1878, the quantity obtained being 88,350 cubic feet and 800 tons, against 26,044 feet and 2,230 tons in 1877. Iron ore disappears from the return of 1878, the furnaces having been shut up. On lime and limestone there was a great decrease in 1878, the quantity having been only 7,000 bushels and 1,800 tons respectively, against 40,902 bushels and 2,056 tons in the previous year. In 1877 there was an export of 65,554 bushels to Victoria, but none was exported in the next year. Slates also disappear from the return of 1878. The quantity of tin ore, however, increased very largely, from 2,989¾ to 6,193 tons nearly; and of smelted tin, from 2,277 to 4,440 tons.

Of the minerals in the north-western quarter of the Island, the District Surveyor, Mr. C. P. Sprent, gives the following account, on 10th March last:—

"The immense mineral wealth of Mount Bischoff is only yet at the commencement of its development, and promises soon to attain to grand proportions. The quantity of tin turned out by the Mount Bischoff Company during the past year, amounting to 2,160 tons, is, I believe, the largest ever yielded by any one mine in the world in the same time. Other companies are doing well, and new discoveries are constantly being made, all of which promise permanent prosperity to Mount Bischoff. Mining operations are carried on in a scientific and skilful manner. Machinery and appliances of the most approved description have been introduced, and further improvements are contemplated. Altogether the Mount Bischoff tin mines are such that the Colony may well be proud of them, and may point to them as evidences of enterprise, patience, and toil rewarded."

* * * * *

"In all directions prospectors are examining the country, and in many instances promising indications have been met with. Any likely-looking country soon attracts miners. So much activity

has never previously been displayed, and it is to be hoped that substantial results with follow.

"Besides tin and gold, discoveries have been made of copper, lead, zinc, antimony, osmiridium, silver, bismuth.

"Altogether the mineral prospects of this portion of the Colony are highly satisfactory, and likely to lead to the increased welfare of its inhabitants."

IV.—FINANCE, &c.

Revenue.

The revenue of the general Government (excluding loans) in 1878, as far as it could be ascertained up to the time of furnishing the returns, was 386,060*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, being 19,942*l.* in excess of that of 1877. The receipts from Customs were 211,030*l.*, or 9,064*l.* more than in 1877. The proportion of Customs duties to the total revenue was nearly 55 per cent. There were also increases on the receipts from stamps, the Post Office, the telegraphs, probate duty, dog licenses, rural police rate, railway traffic, sales of Crown lands (4,016*l.*), rent of Crown lands, rents (ordinary), and miscellaneous.

Expenditure.

The expenditure (excluding that from loans) was 375,601*l.* being 23,140*l.* in excess of that of 1877. Under the head of "Judicial and Legal" there appears an increases of 4,082*l.* (of which 3,531*l.* has been transferred from "Police"), and under that of "Defences" a sum of 5,214*l.* to which there was no corresponding charge last year. "Public Works" caused an increase of 6,699*l.*; but under this head was included a sum of 6,800*l.* for repayment of Treasury bills out of the year's revenue. "Interest" was increased by 6,314*l.* There were small increases also on some departments, such as Customs, Post Office, and Telegraph, Railway, &c., and on the cost of the charitable institutions; while on other departments of the public service there was a reduction.

Imperial Expenditure.

The expenditure in the Colony on account of Imperial services was 17,831*l.*, or 572*l.* more than in 1877.

Course of Exchange.

The course of exchange differed but little from that of 1877, the only important variation being the addition at the end of the year of 1 per cent. to the rate of interest allowed on fixed deposits in the banks.

Banks.

The business of the banks was larger than in 1877, but towards the end of the year the amount of specie and bullion and of notes in circulation was less. The deposits, however, were greater throughout the whole year.

TASMANIA.

At the end of the year the amount of gold and silver in the banks was 302,712*l.*; balances due from other banks, 114,740*l.*; debts due to the banks, 1,648,980*l.* The notes in circulation amounted to 122,588*l.*, and the deposits to 1,873,004*l.*

Mr. Hayter in his valuable "Victorian Year Book" for 1877–78 gives the following as the proportion of coin and bullion to the total assets in the several Australasian Colonies for 1876:—

	Per cent.		Per cent.
1. Queensland -	17·29	4. New Zealand -	13·71
2. Tasmania - -	15·25	5. New South Wales -	13·47
3. Victoria - -	14·71	6. South Australia -	12·71

Here Tasmania holds the second rank.

In regard to the proportion of liabilities to assets, the case was different, New Zealand being the first in order, Tasmania the last.

	Per cent.		Per cent.
1. New Zealand -	61·32	4. Queensland -	80·10
2. South Australia -	66·33	5. New South Wales -	80·27
3. Victoria - -	69·10	6. Tasmania - -	94·29

It will be interesting to compare some of the results furnished by the banking returns of these Colonies. In the following table are shown for the year 1877, in pounds and decimals of a pound, the amount per head of population on 31st December in that year—1. Of the notes in circulation; 2. Of the coin and bullion in the banks; 3. Of the deposits in the banks:—

	Notes in Circulation.	Coin and Bullion.	Deposits.
	£	£	£
Victoria - - -	1·55	4·09	17·25
New South Wales -	1·68	4·12	22·49
Queensland - -	1·70	3·71	15·22
South Australia - -	1·87	3·09	14·00
Tasmania - -	1·10	2·39	13·66
New Zealand - -	2·09	3·87	14·94

In regard to notes in circulation, it appears that New Zealand stands first, Tasmania last. Of specie, New South Wales has the largest amount, Tasmania again the smallest. In deposits, New South Wales still holds the premier place, Victoria next, while Tasmania is again last, but very little behind South Australia.

The following table shows the mean amount, as deduced from the quarterly returns, of the notes, coin and bullion, and deposits, of the Tasmanian banks for 1878 and 1877:—

	Notes in Circulation.	Coin and Bullion.	Deposits.
	£	£	£
1878 - - -	131,622	312,444	1,867,592
1877 - - -	133,218	289,302	1,646,044
More - -	—	23,142	221,548
Less - -	1,596	—	—

While the amount of notes was slightly smaller, that of coin and bullion was larger, the increase on the two together being 21,546*l.* The deposits speak for themselves.

Comparing the bank returns of 1878 with those of 1869—10 years back—we find that the notes in circulation increased by 4·56 per cent.; the deposits by 149·80 per cent.; and the total liabilities by 138·93 per cent.; the specie and bullion by 45·63 per cent.; the debts due to the banks by 56·09 per cent.; and the total assets by 59·15 per cent.

The large increase of liabilities in comparison with that of assets is referable chiefly to the deposits, which are greatly augmented by the high rate of interest—6 per cent. for 12 months certain—now offered by the banks. The highest rate for Government loans negotiated in the Colony being 5 per cent., of course there is a strong attraction of investable capital towards the banks.

It will be seen that the increase on gold and silver is just 10 times that of bank notes.

Savings Banks.

The amount of money in the savings banks in the half year ended August 31, 1878, was greater than in the corresponding half of the previous year; in the half year ended February 28, 1879, less.

The amount to credit of depositors at the end of the corresponding half years was as follows:—

	£	£
	1878.	1877.
On August 31st -	- 312,993	- - 310,237
	1879.	1878.
On February 28th	- 308,389	- - 311,441

The decrease is readily accounted for by the fact that the rate of interest allowed by the savings banks is below that which is offered by the ordinary banks, and that there is therefore a strong inducement to transfer capital from the one to the other.

The number of accounts open on the latter date was, however, greater in the last year than in the preceding, the figures being 12,764 and 12,261 respectively.

The average amount to the credit of each depositor at the end of February last was 24*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, against 25*l.* 8*s.* in the year before.

Money Orders.

The operation of the money order system in 1878 was satisfactory. The orders issued and paid were 15,237, and 9,983, the amounts 54,909*l.* and 35,117*l.*, respectively. Taking both together, the figures for the last two years were these:

—	No. of Orders issued and paid.	Amount.
	£	£
1878 - - - - - -	25,220	90,027
1877 - - - - - -	21,612	77,851

Public Debt.

The public debt on 31st December 1878 amounted to 1,738,500*l.*, being at the rate of 15*l.* 16*s.* 11¾*d.* per head of population on that day, against 14*l.* 16*s.* 7¾*d.* per head in the previous year.

Taxation.

The taxation in 1878 was as follows:—

	£
By the general Government -	247,583
By local bodies - - -	79,770
	327,353

The rate per head was 2*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.* and 14*s.* 8¼*d.* respectively or together, 3*l.* 0*s.* 3¾*d.*

V.—ESTABLISHMENTS, &c. MAINTAINED BY GOVERNMENT.

Post Office.

The Post Office returns for 1878 show a satisfactory increase under all the heads. The following were the numbers for 1878 and 1877:—

—	1878.	1877.
Letters.		
Inland - - - - -	1,654,040	1,472,171
Ship { Received - - - -	350,003	332,660
Ship { Despatched - - - -	309,758	287,251
Packets.		
Inland - - - - -	64,324	50,896
Ship { Received - - - -	47,565	39,533
Ship { Despatched - - - -	10,744	8,700
Newspapers.		
Inland - - - - -	1,333,681	1,081,282
Ship { Received - - - -	313,406	296,478
Ship { Despatched - - - -	275,813	241,762

Adding together the letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched, the numbers were as follows :—

	1878.	1877.
Letters - - - -	2,313,801	2,092,082
Packets - - - -	122,633	99,129
Newspapers - - - - -	1,922,900	1,619,522

The increases per cent. were :—On letters, 10·60; on packets, 23·71; on newspapers, 18·73.

To the number of post offices and receiving houses there were added, during the year, 11; to the post roads, 259 miles; and in the number of miles travelled by mail conveyances there was an increase of 121,071.

The postal revenue was estimated at 17,000*l.* in 1878, against 16,000*l.* in 1877; the expenditure was 26,221*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* in 1878, and 24,082*l.* 15*s.* in 1877.

Telegraphs.

In the business of the Telegraph Department there was also an increase, to the following extent :—

	Per cent.
Paid messages { Home - - -	14·83
Paid messages { Foreign - - -	22·70
Unpaid messages, on public service - -	3·48
On revenue { From home messages - -	16·41
On revenue { From foreign messages - -	25·25
On expenditure - - - -	11·28

It will be seen that the increase in revenue compares very favourably with the increase in expenditure.

The number of stations was increased during the year from 46 to 59; of persons employed, from 53 to 76; of miles of line, from 553 to 692; of miles of single wire, from 763 to 910.

It may be mentioned, for general information, that besides the Government lines of wire there are 133 miles of telegraph belonging to the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, which are worked by the company in connexion with the railway, and are also available to the public for the transmission of messages.

Launceston and Western Railway.

When on a visit to Launceston some time since I took the opportunity of consulting with the manager and accountant of the Launceston and Western Railway as to the form in which the returns should be rendered, and some modifications have been made in consequence. I believe that, in their present shape, the returns will give every information which can reasonably be required.

We find that up to the end of 1878 the total cost of construction and equipment of the line was 435,445*l.*, or 9,676*l.* per mile.

TASMANIA.

The passenger traffic increased during the year, the number being greater by 3,513 than in 1877, and also larger than in any former year. The average distance travelled was 17·39 miles, slightly greater than in 1877, but not so great as in 1874 and 1875. The average rate per passenger per mile was 1·32*d.* in 1878, 1·33*d.* in 1877, 1·35*d.* in 1876, and 1·36*d.* in 1875. The amount received from passengers in 1878 was 10,251*l.*, against 9,899*l.* in 1877. The receipts from this source have steadily been increasing from 1872.

The goods traffic, however, fell off from 18,516 tons in 1877 to 17,421 in 1878. It was at its maximum in 1875. The average distance travelled per ton per mile in the latter year was 29·11 miles; average rate of charge per ton 6*s.* 9·02*d.*; average rate per ton per mile, 2·78*d.*, the highest in the last five years, with the exception of 1876, when it was 2·91*d.*

The train mileage run was 101,172, against 101,712 in 1877; the average per mile open 2,260, against 2,277.

The gross earnings in 1878 were 22,189*l.*, and the working expenses 17,681*l.*, leaving a profit of 4,508*l.*, which is equal to 1·04 per cent. on the capital expended, namely, 435,445*l.* The proportion of working expenses to gross earnings in the last five years was as follows:—

	Per cent.		Per cent.
1874 - -	85·27	1877 - -	84·42
1875 - -	83·42	1878 - -	79·68
1876 - -	83·44		

There was therefore a considerable decrease on the per-centage of working expenses in the last year.

The number of vehicles was increased in 1878 from 126 to 144, thus affording additional accommodation to the public.

The returns for the Main Line Railway have only reached me to-day, and are printed at the end of the volume.

Marine Boards.

The revenue of the Marine Boards amounted to 14,667*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, and their expenditure to 15,278*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* As compared with the previous year there was an increase on the revenue of 7·64 per cent., and on the expenditure of 4·84 per cent.

Lighthouses.

The lighthouses cost 5,193*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, and received from light dues and other sources, 6,153*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.* The amount of the former was smaller than in 1877, being 3,197*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, against 3,281*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*; the excess of revenue being derived from contributions, on account of their proportion of the expenses, from other governments.

Salmon and Trout Breeding Establishment.

The cost of the salmon and trout breeding establishment in 1878 was 301*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, while the receipts obtained from issue of

trout fishing licenses and sale of ova were 215*l.*, leaving the net cost of the establishment 86*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

The following return shows the number of ova and fry of the brown trout distributed during 1878:—

RETURN of the DISTRIBUTION of OVA and FRY from the BREEDING PONDS, RIVER PLENTY, during 1878.

OVA.		FRY.	
Brown Trout—		Brown Trout—	
New South Wales	500	River Mersey	500
Victoria	8,000	Ben Lomond Rivulet	300
Tasmania, streams near Lake St. Clair	2,000	Macquarie River	500
		Meander River	500
		North Esk River	1,000
		Coal River	750
		Streams near Lisdillon, East Coast	900
		Mr. Kellaway, Huon	250
		Mr. O. Meredith, Orford	450
		Coal River	1,200
		River Plenty	1,500
Total	10,500	Total	7,850

Charitable Establishments.

In the Government hospitals and charitable establishments the number of inmates in 1878 was as follows:—

——	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Number on 31st December.	Daily Average Number maintained.
General hospitals	1,527	1,376	131	122	132
Pauper establishments	968	795	159	791	854
Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children	16	45	—	88	104
Hospital for Insane	34*	17	25	328	298

Comparing the daily average number with that for 1877, there appear to have been the following decreases:—In general hospitals, 32; in Queen's Asylum, 24; in Hospital for Insane, 5. In the paupers there was an increase of 15.

Penal Establishments.

In the penal establishments the corresponding numbers in the two years were these:—

——	Received during Year.	Discharged.	Died.	Number on 31st December.	Average Number during Year.
1878	1,616	1,615	13	346	356
1877	1,571	1,556	11	358	338

* Including eight re-admitted.

It is satisfactory to find that there was a decrease in the criminals if not in the paupers, the average number being less by 38.

Ages.

In regard to the ages of the inmates of these establishments it may be sufficient to state that in the hospital, Hobart Town, the majority of the patients were between 15 and 25; in the hospital, Launceston, between 55 and 65; in the hospitals for insane, between 45 and 55 (at the Cascades the prevailing age is from 55 to 65). At the pauper establishments about 62 per cent. were 65 and upwards. At the penal establishments the greater number were between 15 and 25. The average of all ages for adults was as follows:—Hospital, Hobart Town, 41 nearly; hospital, Launceston, 40; lunatics, New Norfolk, 48; Cascades, 58; paupers, from 63 to 71; gaol, Hobart Town, males 42; females, 37 nearly; gaol, Launceston, 43.

Education.

As regards education, about 30 per cent. of the paupers were unable to read, and about 50 per cent. could read and write; of prisoners in the gaols about 32 per cent. could not read, and 53 per cent. were able to read and write. Of both, those of superior education formed a very small proportion, being six only in the one case, and seven in the other.

Birth-places.

The birth-places of inmates of the different establishments are now shown for the first time. The great majority of patients in the hospital, Hobart Town (the information as regards the Launceston Hospital was not obtainable) were natives of the Colonies, the next in order being those of England and Wales. The nationality of the insane was—Australasian Colonies, 77; Ireland, 34; England and Wales, 33; of the paupers, only 43 were Australasian; the great majority being English. The gaols contained 595 Australasians, 707 English, and 461 Irish. The Scotch were not very far behind the Irish in number in the pauper establishments, but supplied comparatively few inmates to the gaols.

Cost of Establishments.

The gross cost of all the establishments before mentioned was 46,211*l.* being somewhat in excess of that of the preceding year, the excess being for paupers and gaols.

The average gross cost per head per annum was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
General hospitals - - -	73	15	$7\frac{1}{4}$*
Insane - - - -	34	3	$0\frac{1}{4}$
Paupers - - - -	14	15	$4\frac{3}{4}$
Children in Queen's Asylum -	21	7	10
Prisoners in Gaols - - -	32	1	9

* The difference between the cost at Hobart Town and Launceston is, to some extent, referable to the large number of out-patients at the former, the numbers at the two hospitals in 1878 being 3,909 and 746 respectively.

Establishments assisted by Government.

Of the establishments assisted but not maintained by Government, some may be passed over, the numbers scarcely varying from those of the previous year. The ragged schools, however, show an increase of 182 in the average number on the rolls, and 25 in the average daily attendance. The benevolent societies had a larger number of permanent pensioners on their bounty, the numbers being, for 1878, adults, 85; children, 114; for 1877, adults, 62; children 78. The amount of occasional relief granted in 1878 was less, the adults being in 1878, only 318, and the children 337, instead of 389 and 356 respectively, as in 1877.

The amount contributed by Government to these establishments was as under:—

	£
Charitable - - - -	1,507
Educational - - - -	502
Scientific - - - - -	800

The proportions per cent. which private subscriptions bore to these grants were—

For the charitable establishments - -	65·69
For the educational:—	
Ragged schools - - -	26·74
St. Luke's School - - -	41·00
For the Royal Society - - -	18·75

Out-door Relief.

The expenditure on out-door relief was 11,744*l.*, against 11,388*l.* in 1877, an excess of 356*l.* The cost of out-door relief, added to that of the Government establishments before mentioned, amounts to 57,955*l.*, which was the total expenditure for charitable purposes and hospitals in 1878.

Road Trusts.

The 69 road trusts had an aggregate revenue (excluding balances) of 30,534*l.* and an expenditure of 28,585*l.*, the first being 3,489*l.* in excess of the figures for 1877, the latter 2,383*l.*

Municipalities.

The municipalities had a revenue of 72,140*l.* and an expenditure of 76,301, the revenue being less by 4,759*l.* and the expenditure by 3,116*l.*, than in 1877; the difference being in the amount raised by loan.

Valuation of Property.

The annual value of landed property, as shown by the valuation rolls, was 665,689,—an increase as regards the preceding year of 29,298*l.* On comparing the figures given for 1878 with those for 1870, some strange anomalies are observed. The valuation for Hobart Town and Launceston was increased by 23,258*l.*, and

TASMANIA

in the police districts by 33,882*l.*; while that of the rural municipalities was reduced by 1,675*l.* It is certainly not easy to understand how a property should have an increasing or declining value, according as it is situated in a rural municipality or a police district.

VI.—CROWN LANDS, AGRICULTURE, &c.

Lands sold and leased.

The following were the number of lots and area of Crown land sold in the last two years :—

	1878.		1877.	
	No. of Lots.	Area.	No. of Lots.	Area.
		Acres.		Acres.
Town lots - -	209	1,309	335	1,058
Country lots - -	478	44,933	423	38,463
	687	46,242	758	39,522

In regard to town lands it will be seen that while the number of lots was smaller in 1878, the area was greater; while as to country lands there was an increase in both—the quantity being greater by 6,470 acres, or nearly 17 per cent. The increase on blocks under 50 acres was 1,233 acres, or nearly 18 per cent.; on blocks of between 50 and 100 acres, 1,995 acres, or 28 per cent.; and on blocks of over 500 acres, 3,659 acres, or 80 per cent. On blocks of 100 to 500 acres there was a slight decrease.

The amount for which the land sold in the same years was—

	1878.	1877.
	£	£
Town lots - - - - -	9,232	8,643
Country lots - - - - - -	65,516	50,692
	74,748	59,335

The difference in favour of 1878 was 15,413*l.*, or 26 per cent. nearly.

The acreage of land sold and amount realized therefrom were the largest in the last 10 years, with the exception of 1874.

The average prices per acre were :—In 1878, town lots, 7*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, country lots, 1*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*; in 1877, town lots, 8*l.* 3*s.* 4½*d.*, country lots, 1*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.* Thus the price of town lands was higher in 1877 but that of country lands in 1878.

Land granted.

The quantity of land "granted" or transferred by deed of gift (under immigration certificates) in 1878 was 1,054 acres, against 314 in 1877.

Land alienated.

Up to the end of the former year there had been alienated by sale and free gift, 4,138,945 acres, leaving 12,639,055 acres still unalienated.

Land leased for ordinary Purposes.

Of these there were held in 1878 under "depasturing" licenses 2,002,872 acres, yielding a rental of 8,708*l.*; and 248,594 acres of other lands were also rented from the Crown for a sum of 2,069*l.* The differences as compared with the figures for 1877 were these:—

	Under Depasturing Licenses.	Under other Tenure.
	Acres.	Acres.
1878 - - - -	2,002,872	248,594
1877 - - - -	1,754,278	355,322
	More 248,594	Less 106,728

Gold Mining.

The number and area of leases of Crown land applied for under the Gold Fields Act were less in 1878 than in 1877, the figures being—

	1878.	1877.
Number applied for - - - -	86	112
Area - - - - - -	756	1,223

The numbers in force at the end of those years respectively were 104 and 62; the areas being 1,070 and 663 acres, showing a considerable difference in favour of 1878.

The number of business licenses issued during that year was 42, against 26 in 1877. The miners' rights in 1878 were, however, considerably less numerous than in 1877, the numbers being 1,786 and 2,184 respectively.

The amount of fees and other moneys received by the Commissioner of Gold Fields in 1878 was returned as 2,351*l.*, against 3,143*l.* in 1877.

Minerals.

In 1878 there were granted mining leases for tin, 94, against 196 in 1877, the respective areas being 5,514 and 11,629 acres. There were also granted leases for copper, 10; for galena, 1; and for silver, 2. None for these purposes were issued in 1877; but in that year one was granted for slate and four for coal.

Tin and gold are the metals which now chiefly engage the attention of the mining population. The return of leases in force at the end of 1878 does not give a favourable idea of the state of

TASMANIA.

tin mining at that time; the cause being probably the fall in the price of tin, leading to the abandonment of the poorer lands, as not capable of being worked at a profit. Below the figures for the last two years are placed side by side :—

——	No. of Lessees.	Area.	Rental.
		Acres.	£
1877 - - -	504	34,906	8,681
1878 - - -	330	28,374	6,827
Decrease -	174	6,532	1,854

Agriculture.

The agricultural and live stock returns were not published in 1878 until July 9; in the present year they appeared in the "Gazette" of June 10, and might have gone to press still earlier had they not been kept back while waiting for those from Sorell.

These returns show an increase during the past year in the acreage under wheat, oats, tares, carrots, artificial grass (for seed), hay, and some smaller crops, but a decrease in all the others. The total breadth of land in crop was 143,797 acres, or 12,784 acres (9·75 per cent.) more than in 1877–78. In permanent artificial grass there was a decrease of 1,849 acres; in land under fallow a decrease of 1,363 acres; in all other cultivated land a decrease of 3,010 acres. In the total acreage of land under cultivation (including that in crop) there was an increase of 6,562; and in new land broken up during the year an increase of 770 acres.

Referring back 10 years, to 1869–70, and comparing the present state of agriculture in this Colony with what it was then, we find (excluding a few of the least important crops) the following changes :—

Decreases.	Acres.	Per cent.
Wheat - - - - -	13,987	22·42
Barley - - - - -	4,990	55·26
Oats - - - - -	1,259	4·19
Potatoes - - - - -	1,211	13·03
Onions - - - - -	72	50·70

Increases.	Acres.	Per cent.
Pease - - - - -	859	22·36
Root crops (turnips, carrots, and mangel wurzel) - - - - -	536	22·86
Artificial grasses for seed - - -	2,408	199·50
Hops - - - - -	69	12·30
Gardens and orchards - - -	812	14·82
Permanent artificial grasses - - -	37,629	47·48
All other cultivated land - - -	15,069	27·12

On the totals the increases were as under :—

Increases.	Acres.	Per cent.
Land in crop - - - -	17,812	11·02
Land under cultivation - - -	36,919	11·59

The average produce per acre of the principal crops for the last five years was as follows :—

Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Hops.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.	lbs.
1874–75 -	18·51	24·47	26·83	3·75	1·35	1,237
1875–76 -	16·38	27·84	25·41	3·55	1·42	1,563
1876–77 -	19·29	23·58	24·24	3·43	1·21	1,309
1877–78 -	18·11	20·27	22·03	3·02	1·13	1,211
1878–79 -	16·09	24·21	24·82	3·37	1·19	1,272
Means -	17·68	24·07	24·67	3·42	1·26	1,318

These averages contrast very favourably with those of the other Australasian Colonies, which for the five years, 1873–77, ending March 31, were as shown below :—*

——	Wheat.	Oats.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	bushels.	bushels.	tons.	tons.
Victoria - - -	14·66	19·11	3·30	1·29
New South Wales -	14·74	18·97	2·96	1·42
South Australia - -	9·69	13·79	3·55	1·33
Western Australia -	10·89	15·69	2·80	1·40
New Zealand - -	27·62	32·52	4·97	1·26

The average of barley in Victoria in the period 1868–78 was 20·12 bushels. The average yield of the four principal crops in Victoria in 1878–79 was—

Wheat, bushels - - -	8·7
Oats, bushels - - - -	17·6
Potatoes, tons - - -	2·7
Hay, tons - - - -	1·2

The wheat crop was therefore deficient by about one half; and that of potatoes was also below the average. The returns from the other Colonies for the last year have not reached me, but I believe the yield in South Australia is a small one. In the natural course of things there should therefore be a greater extent of land under wheat in the coming spring than in the last.

In the use of agricultural machinery there continues to be satisfactory progress. To take some of the most striking instances;

* From Mr. Hayter's Victorian Year Book, 1877–78.

TASMANIA.

in 1869–70, of chaff-cutters worked by horse or steam power, only 23 were returned; in 1878–79, 354 were returned. Cultivators in the two years were 89 and 114 respectively; corn-crushers, 2 and 84; horse-hoes and similar implements, 308 and 514; lift and force pumps, none in 1869–70, 82 in 1878–79; mowing machines, 39 and 82; reaping machines, 62 and 148; reaper and mower combined, none in 1869–70, and 118 in 1878–79; ploughs, subsoil, 1 and 184; ploughs, double furrow, have increased from 4 in 1873–74 to 176. Threshing machines have increased from 252 to 259, and they are now more frequently worked by steam. Steam engines used in connexion with agricultural or pastoral operations have increased from 83 to 97, their aggregate horse-power from 722 to 829.

The return of live stock in 1878–9 does not by any means show a general increase. The number of horses (24,107) was certainly greater than in any other year of the decennium, except 1872–3; horned cattle (126,276) were more numerous than in the first eight years, but less so than in 1877–8; sheep have progressively increased from 1,305,489 in 1871–2 to 1,838,831 in 1878–9; goats, however, have decreased from 2,662 in the first to 2,367 in the last year of the period; while pigs, which in 1869–70 numbered 49,524, and in 1876–7 60,681, in 1878–9 were reduced to 39,595.

The number of sheep and lambs imported in 1878, taken from the customs returns was 10,980, against 8,385 in the year before; of horned cattle, 1,347, against 904; that of sheep slaughtered at the public slaughter-houses, 87,497, against 79,848; that of cattle so slaughtered, 8,039, against 7,940; and that of pigs slaughtered, 5,692, against 5,916.

From the reports of the collectors of agricultural statistics, we learn that in several districts the crop of wheat was damaged by rust, and the fruit by spring frosts. It is remarked that at Campbell Town, where the "borer" was found troublesome, it was nearly exterminated by keeping fowls in the orchard. In the Launceston district the apples and pears are reported to have been destroyed by the grub—presumably the same insect, and the English grass is said to have suffered from the common grub; more especially in new land. The potato crop was almost a failure in the New Norfolk district, in consequence of the dryness of the season; and it is anticipated that the fall in the price of hops will reduce the quantity grown. The collector for Glamorgan mentions one fact which is worthy of the careful attention of agriculturalists—that the improvements in the mode of cultivation introduced there made the effects of the drought less severely felt than they otherwise would have been. We are informed that in the Kingborough district there was an increase of 50 tons of raspberries, and that increased attention is being paid to dairy farming.

On the whole, considering the difficulties in regard to labour, these reports are decidedly favourable. They speak of a general progress in regard to the use of machinery and other appliances

for the purpose of economising labour, such as reaping and threshing machines, the combined reaper and binder, and the double and triple furrow plough, also of artificial manure, and to a less extent, of fallowing; and of improvements in the breed of stock.

From a perusal of the reports of the district surveyors, which were laid before the House of Assembly last session, I find that considerable progress in settlement was made in many parts of the Colony during the last few years; and nearly all of these surveyors give it as their opinion that that progress has been impeded more or less by the want of roads. One reports that the making of a road in his district has had the effect of causing every acre of Crown land in its vicinity to be sold. These reports also throw some light upon the cause of the decline in agriculture, as compared with former years. In the South Buckingham district it appears that the settlers have nearly abandoned the growing of grain and potatoes, and are now giving their whole attention to the production of fruit instead. The same gentleman gives it as his opinion that so long as the price of labour continues to be so far beyond the value of the articles raised by it, "will "clearing land and agricultural pursuits generally cease to be "entered into to any extent in Tamania." The desire now springing up in England in consequence of the depression there, to emigrate to the Australian Colonies among other places, may tend to remove this impediment. Another reason assigned why the settlement of the agricultural lands does not proceed more rapidly is, that the higher rate of wages draws the labouring population away from the farms to the mines. The report from which I draw this fact states that in the Montagu district to the west the land is so extraordinarily rich that 18 tons of potatoes to the acre is not an unusual crop on the best paddocks, whilst the feed for stock is the best the writer has ever seen.

VII.—Law, Crime, &c.

Commitments.

The number of persons committed for trial in the Superior Courts in 1878 was considerably in excess of the number in the preceding year, being 109 as against 93; as to sex, 98 were males and 11 females. As to civil condition, 78 had been always previously free, and 31 belonged to the criminal classes.

The offences with which they were charged were as follows:—

Against the person - - - -	36
Malicious injuries to property - -	2
Larceny and similar offences - - -	55
Forgery ditto - - -	7
Relating to coinage - - - -	1
Others - - - - -	8

The increases occur under the first and third heads.

Cases tried in Superior Courts.

The number of cases brought under the cognisance of the Superior Courts was 86, the same as in 1877. Of these, 77 were tried, 54 being convicted, and 23 acquitted. Of the 9 prisoners not brought to trial, 1 was found insane, 3 were remanded, and 5 were not prosecuted. In reference to the nature of their offences, the 86 cases may be classified thus:—

—	1878.	1877.
Murder and cognate offences	7	6
Concealment of birth	1	—
Rape and indecent assaults on females	5	5
Indecent assaults on males	—	1
Unnatural crimes	1	—
All other offences against the person	14	8
Robbery with violence	—	3
Other offences against property	44	52
Miscellaneous offences	14	11

Executions.

One execution took place in 1878, a male, a native of Tasmania, the crime being murder. One person also suffered the extreme penalty of the law in 1877, and for the same offence.

Inferior Courts.

The total number of minor offenders dealt with in the inferior courts was 7,901, being 282 in excess of the number in 1877. The number convicted was, however, smaller, being 4,965 against 5,082. Here again there was an increase in the offences against the person, the numbers being, 1878, 729; 1877, 677. Offences against property were 917 and 901 respectively; other offences, 6,255 and 6,041. The convictions were classed thus: offences against the person, 411 and 393 respectively; against property, 598 and 610; other offences, 5,251 and 5,089. The number acquitted was 1,528 in 1878, and 1,425 in 1877.

Of the 6,243 persons (excluding lunatics) convicted in 1878, 2,884 were punished by fine, 1,142 by imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety, 729 by peremptory imprisonment, 93 were bound over with or without sureties, and 1,316 cases resulted in orders for the payment of money, for instance, by husbands for the maintenance of their wives, by relatives towards the support of persons thrown upon public charity, and on account of rates and taxes, and 79 were not punished.

Besides the 7,901 persons dealt with by magistrates, 535 offences were reported to the police, but from various causes not brought to justice; so that the total known amount of crime in 1878 was 8,436 cases.

The great increase in 1878 is in offences against the person those against property being much less numerous. The fact however, that in 1878 only 60 persons were tried for felonies, while 67 were tried for the same class of offences in 1877, shows that there was less serious crime in the later year.

Litigation.

In the Supreme Court 335 writs of summons were issued, 5 more than in 1877; causes entered for trial were the same as in 1877, namely 19; causes tried were 16, or 5 more: verdicts for plaintiff, 10, the same in number; for defendant, 5, or 4 more. Amount awarded by jury 735*l.*, against 2,184*l.* in 1877. The non-suits and causes withdrawn were, in 1878, 4; in 1877, 8.

In its small debts jurisdiction, the Supreme Court issued 105 summonses in 1878, and tried 80 causes, which resulted in 73 verdicts for plaintiff, 7 for defendant. The aggregate amount of claims sued for was 3,171*l.*; of verdicts obtained, 1,156*l.* There were also 35 warrants issued. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase in the summonses issued of 26; in the causes tried, of 29; in the verdicts for plaintiff, of 31; in the amount sued for, of 1,099*l.*; in amount obtained, of 529*l.*; in the warrants issued, of 12. The number of verdicts for defendant was less by 2.

The business of the courts of requests was much in excess of that of 1877, as will be seen by placing the figures in juxtaposition:—

	1878.	1877.
Number of { Summonses issued	3,064	2,540
Number of { Cases tried	1,890	1,467
Amount of { Claims sued for	£19,303	£14,762
Amount of { Verdicts obtained	£10,513	£6,095
Verdicts for { Plaintiff	1,752	1,347
Verdicts for { Defendant, &c.	138	120
Number of writs issued	669	466

Divorce.

In the Divorce Court two petitions were filed, one being for dissolution of marriage and one for alimony, against three in 1877. Decrees for dissolution were granted in four cases, the same number as in 1877, and one protection order was also granted.

Probates, &c.

The number of probates and letters of administration issued in the last two years was as follows:—

	1878.		1877.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Probates	96	215,813	116	191,103
Letters of administration	46	37,957	35	34,408
	142	253,770	151	225,511

Bankruptcies.

The bankruptcies in 1878 were 64 in number, 40 being voluntary and 24 compulsory. In 1877 they were only 38. There have not been so many since 1870.

Mortgages.

The following table shows the number of mortgages and other similar documents registered in the office of the Registrar of Deeds in 1878 and 1877 :—

—	1878.		1877.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
		£		£
Mortgages - - -	421	284,245	354	173,992
Memorials - - -	1,261	—	1,154	—
Judgments - - -	24	4,917	28	10,381
Certificates of satisfaction -	92	61,443	70	44,612
	1,798	350,605	1,606	228,985

Taking into account the mortgages registered at the Lands' Titles Office, the total number and amount under both systems in those years appears to have been as under :—

—	Number.	Amount.
		£
1878 - - - - -	670	397,239
1877 - - - -	588	277,049

The increase in number was 15 per cent., and in amount 43.

Lands Titles Office.

The business of the Lands Titles Office also shows a considerable increase in 1878, the number of transactions being 1,276, against 1,197 in 1877; the amounts 369,474*l.* and 278,609*l.* respectively; and the areas brought under the operation of the Act. 145,398 and 93,460 acres respectively.

Bills of Sale.

Bills of sale registered also showed an increase in 1878 as regards the number, the figures for the two years being :—

—	Bills of Sale and Renewals.	Amount.
		£
1878 - - - - -	244	74,774
1877 - - - - -	233	81,576

Grant Deeds.

A larger number of grant deeds was enrolled in 1878, being 377, against 364 in the preceding year.

Inquests.

The inquests on deaths in 1878 were less numerous than in 1877, the total numbers being :—

	1878.	1877.
Males - - - - -	105	113
Females - - - - -	37	44
	142	157

It is a curious fact that even deaths of such a nature as to require investigation in this manner, that is, sudden, accidental, or violent deaths, which might be supposed to occur purely by chance, are yet subject to a certain law of recurrence, the proportions of deaths at certain ages being not very different in one year and another, as will be seen by the following figures, which might be extended without much variation in the result :—

	Proportion per cent.	
	1878.	1877.
Under 7 years - - - -	16·20	15·92
7–16 years - - - -	5·63	7·64
16–60 years - - - -	50·00	54·14
60 and upwards - - - -	28·17	22·30
	100·00	100·00

Public Schools.

There were 164 public schools in existence in 1878, being one less than in 1877. The total number of scholars on the rolls in 1878 was 12,453, or 104 less, the average being 8,297, against 8,222 in 1877 ; the average daily attendance was 6,032, against 5,973. The teaching staff consisted of 258 teachers and assistant teachers, and 40 pupil-teachers and paid monitors in 1878. The former being less by one, the latter more by two, than in 1877.

The total cost of the public schools in the two years was as under :—

	To the State.	To the Parents.	Total.
	£	£	£
1878 - -	17,150	5,877	23,027
1877 - - -	17,191	5,401	22,592

TASMANIA.

the amount contributed by the State being 41*l.* less, by the parents 476*l.* more, than in 1877; while the total cost was 435*l.* more.

The rate per head, calculated on the average daily attendance, was in 1878,—to the State, 21*l.* 6*s.* 10¼*d.*; to the parents, 19*s.* 5¾*d.*; total 3*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, against 3*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.* in 1877.

Superior Education.

The cost to the State of superior education in 1878 was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Tasmanian Scholarships and Degree of Associate of Arts, and departmental expenditure connected therewith - - - - -	2,012	17	11
Exhibitions to superior schools - - -	875	0	0
	2,887	17	11

being 148*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* in excess of that of 1877.

Friendly Societies.

Of the friendly societies, 49 filed accounts in 1877, but only 35 in 1878. In 1876 the number was 27. The passing of "The Statistical Returns Act" in 1877, which imposed a maximum penalty of 5*l.* for neglect to furnish the statement required by "The Friendly Societies Act," and a public notice which was issued upon the passing of the former Act, especially calling the attention of the societies to the matter, caused the requirements of the law to be better observed for the time; but in the present year many of these societies have again set it at defiance. I would, therefore, strongly urge that proceedings should be taken against the offending societies for recovery of the penalty, in order to show them that the law will not be allowed to be broken with impunity.

The following is a list of those which are registered but have not filed accounts for 1878*:—

Independent Order of Odd Fellows, M.U.:—
Loyal Prince Alfred Lodge, New Norfolk.
Loyal Bellerive Lodge.

Ancient and Independent Order of Odd Fellows:—
Loyal Albert Lodge, Hobart Town.
Loyal Huon Lodge, Honeywood.

Independent Order of Rechabites:—
Southern Cross District.
Rising Star Tent, Hobart Town.
Heart and Hand Tent, Oatlands.
Guiding Star Tent, Hobart Town.

Orange Lodge:—
Hearts of Oak, No. 11, Hobart Town.

* These are for the southern side only, the request for information for the northern not having been complied with.

The 35 lodges or districts which filed accounts in 1878 had 3,755 members—131 more than the 49 in 1877; their receipts amounted to 10,191*l.*; their expenditure to 8,439*l.*; and their capital to 24,643*l.* The amount of funds to each member in 1878 and 1869 (deducting in the latter year the 554 members of districts who were improperly included) was as follows:—

—	1878.	1869.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Receipts - - - - -	2 14 3¼	1 15 6
Expenditure - - - - -	2 4 11¼	1 8 8
Capital - - - - -	6 11 3	6 1 2¼

The receipts therefore increased by 18*s.* 9¼*d.* per head, the expenditure by 16*s.* 3¼*d.*, and the capital by 10*s.* 0¾*d.* per head.

IX.—Vital Statistics.

Births.

The births in 1878 numbered 3,502, or 291 more than in 1877, 1,798 being those of male children and 1,704 being those of female. The males were therefore to the females in the proportion of 105·55 to 100. The birth rate per 1,000 of population at the middle of the year was 32·27, which is the highest in the last 10 years. It has been steadily rising since 1872. In 1877 it was 30·21. On referring to the table at p. 84 of Mr. Hayter's valuable "Victorian Year Book" for 1877–8, I find that in all the Australasian Colonies except Tasmania and Western Australia the birth rate has been decreasing since 1866. The figures for the first and last years of the period are given below:—

—	1866.	1876.
Victoria - - - - -	39·44	32·23
New South Wales - - - -	40·22	37·69
Queensland - - - - -	44·86	37·48
South Australia - - - -	42·38	37·71
New Zealand - - - -	42·89	41·16

In order the better to observe their connexion, it may be well to consider the marriages here immediately after the births, although not precisely in the order in which they are placed in the volume.

Marriages.

The number of marriages returned as having been performed in 1878 is 866, or 35 more than in 1877. With one exception (the year 1875), the marriages have been increasing in number since 1871. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1878 was 7·98, which

TASMANIA.

is higher than in any other of the decennium. In regard to marriages, Tasmania occupies very nearly the same position when compared with the other Australasian Colonies as in regard to births, as will be seen by a glance at the following table :—

	1866.	1876.
Victoria - - - - -	6·71	5·96
New South Wales - - - -	8·22	7·49
Queensland - - - - -	11·61	7·57
South Australia - - - -	8·12	*
New Zealand - - - -	10·32	8·25†

It is generally allowed that the marriage rate is an index of the prosperity or the reverse of a community, since the disposition to contract marriage is usually encouraged or restrained according to the circumstances of the bread-finder; but it may also be affected by other things, such as changes in social habits and in morals. In either case, the fact of such an increase in the birth and marriage rates in this Colony is a favourable indication.

Deaths.

The deaths in 1878, as registered (not including one execution), were 1,700, being 338 fewer than in 1877. The males were 992 and the female 708.

The rate per 1,000 of mean population was 15·66, being lower than it has been since 1873. It was not greatly in excess of the average for the first five years of the decennium, which was 13·87 per 1,000. The death rate for males was 17·69 per 1,000; for females, 14·10.

In regard to ages, the deaths under one year of age were more numerous, being 375 in 1878, against 365 in 1877. This was also the case with those between 90 and 100, and one person died aged 100 or upwards. At all other ages the difference was in favour of 1878, notably so between 2 and 3, 4 and 5, and 5 and 10. In fact, as compared with several previous years, 1878 seems to have been peculiarly favourable to children, except the very youngest.

The proportion of births to deaths of infants under one year was 10·71 per cent. In 1877 it was 11·37 per cent. For every 88½ children who survived this specially dangerous period of life in 1877, 89¼ survived in 1878.

On examining the return showing the causes of the deaths registered, we at once notice a very remarkable feature—one that distinguishes Tasmania from other countries—which is, that the most prevalent cause of death is old age. In Victoria, during a period

* The rate in 1876 was 8·49, and therefore in excess of that of 1866, but this was an exception to the general tendency, which was a diminishing one, the mean being 7·62.

† In 1872 it was only 6·85.

of 23½ years, the order of mortality of some of the most fatal causes was this:—

1. Accidents.
2. Phthisis.
3. Atrophy and debility.
4. Diarrhœa.
5. Dysentery.

The order of causes in Tasmania in the last three years was as follows, phthisis keeping nearly the same place as in Victoria:—

1878.	1877.	1876.
1. Old age.	1. Old age.	1. Old age.
2. Phthisis.	2. Scarlatina.	2. Phthisis.
3 Heart disease.	3. Phthisis.	3. Heart disease.
4. Convulsions.	4. Heart disease.	4. Scarlatina.
5. Diarrhæa.	5. Pneumonia.	5. Pneumonia.
6. Pneumonia.	6. Atrophy and debility.	6. Convulsions.
7. Bronchitis.	7. Bronchitis.	7. Bronchitis.
8. Cancer.	8. Convulsions.	8. Diarrhœa.

The proportions borne by each class of diseases to the total specified diseases in 1878 and 1877 were—

—	1878.	1877.
I. Zymotic - - - -	17·63	26·24
II. Constitutional - - -	13·11	12·33
III. Local - - - -	41·63	36·53
IV. Developmental - - -	21·26	19·31
V. Violent - - - -	6·37	5·59
	100·00	100·00

The decrease in the zymotic class is at once apparent. In 1877 there were 197 deaths from scarlatina,; in 1878 only 7. In 1877 diphtheria carried off 72 persons; in 1878 only 59. Fevers of the typhoid kind, however, in 1878 caused 50 deaths; in 1877 only 41. Erysipelas occasioned 15 deaths in 1877; 9 in 1878. Eleven deaths were due to influenza and cognate diseases in 1877; 1 only in 1878. Cholera caused 7 deaths in 1877, and only 2 in 1878; rheumatism, 5 in 1877, and 1 only in 1878. Enthetic (or communicated) diseases were more fatal in the latter year, the numbers being 13 and 7 respectively. Under the order of dietic diseases, alcoholism is charged with 14 deaths in 1877, and 7 in 1878. The tubercular diseases were much less fatal in 1878 than in 1877, the numbers being 138 and 167 respectively. Diseases of the nervous system were in excess in 1878; those of the circulation were fewer; so also were those of the respiratory system.*

* In connexion with these, it may be mentioned that the amount of ozone in the atmosphere was greater than in the previous year.

TASMANIA.

Diseases of the digestive organs were 96 and 83 in 1878 and 1877 respectively; of the urinary organs, 37 and 41. Passing over some of the less important orders in this class, diseases of the skin were 9 in 1878, and only 3 in 1877.

In the next or developmental class, diseases of children were 63 and 59 in 1878 and 1877 respectively; of adults, 15 and 19; of old people, 213 and 230; the deaths from atrophy and debility being 66 and 82.

The deaths of persons of 70 and upwards were 17·78 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. Assuming that the proportion of persons of that age to the whole population was the same in 1878 as at the date of the last census, the death rate for all ages under 70 in 1878 would be no more than 13·93 per 1,000.

In the accidental class, the deaths in 1878 and 1877 were 107 and 113 respectively.

Vaccination.

Very few vaccinations were performed in 1878. Only 805 cases were operated on, of which 724, or nearly 90 per cent., were reported as successful. In 1877 the cases operated on were 9,558. In that year the public mind was apprehensive of the possible introduction of small-pox; but the alarm having passed away, the people returned, as is usually the case in such matters, to their ordinary indifference.

Diseases and Deaths in Charitable Institutions.

In the number of cases of disease treated in the hospitals and in the Queen's Asylum, and in the deaths resulting therefrom, there was a large decrease in 1878, the figures being,—

	Cases.	Deaths.
1877 - - - - - -	2,071	228
1878 - - - - - -	1,763	165
Decrease - -	308	63

The decrease on the cases was in the proportion of 14·87 per cent.; on the deaths, of 27·63 per cent.

The proportion of deaths to cases was as follows:—General Hospital, Hobart Town, 9·29 per cent.; General Hospital, Launceston, 11·57 per cent.; Hospital, Campbell Town, 7·02 per cent.

The mortality in these Hospitals, calculated on the same basis, in the last five years, is shown below :—

	Hobart Town.	Launceston.	Campbell Town.
1874 - - - -	10·85	13·01	11·67
1875 - - - -	9·57	16·67	25·86
1876 - - - -	9·47	13·89	12·90
1877 - - - -	10·33	15·97	9·09
1878 - - - -	9·29	11·57	7·02

In all, the mortality in 1878 contrasts very favourably with that of the previous years. It will be observed that the rate is much higher at Launceston.

Lunatic Asylum New Norfolk.

The cases treated in the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk in 1878 were 293, and the deaths 23, the mortality being 7·85 per cent. In 1877 the cases were 245, the deaths 25, and the mortality 10·20 per cent.

The deaths in the Government charitable establishments, other than hospitals, in proportion to the average number of persons maintained throughout the year 1878, were as follows :—

	Averages Age of Inmates.	Deaths per cent.
PAUPERS.		
Brickfields, Hobart Town (males) - -	71	19·35
Cascades, Hobart Town (ditto) - -	67	15·53
New Town (females) - - -	63	20·60
Launceston (males and females) - -	71·26	22·59
HOSPITALS FOR INSANE.		
New Norfolk (males and females) - -	48	10·31
Cascades (males) - - - -	58	2·66
PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS.		
Gaol for males, Hobart Town - -	42·5	2·15
Gaol for females, Hobart Town - -	36·7	—
Gaol (males and females) Launceston -	43·17	6·77

These figures, taken in connexion with those of former years, show the unsanitary condition of the establishments at Launceston, the mortality among the paupers being about 3 per cent. above that of the brickfields, and the mortality at the gaol more than 4 per cent. in excess of that of the Hobart Town gaol for males, the ages being in both cases nearly the same.

Meteorology.

The return of meteorological observations at Hobart Town shows that the pressure of the air was greater in 1878 than in 1877; that its temperature was higher; that its humidity was slightly greater; that the amount of sunshine was less, the obscuration by the clouds being 6·64 per month against 6·35; that there was more movement in the air (the mean force for the month being 1·05 and 0·81 respectively); that the maximum force of wind was greater (7·79 against 6·34); that the quantity of rain which fell was greater,* the total amount during the year being 29·76, against 20·82, and spontaneous evaporation less, the mean for the month being 2·35 and 3·80 respectively; and that the amount of ozone present in the air was greater, being 5·23 and 4·91.

X.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Political Franchise.

According to the returns furnished, in obedience to the Statistical Returns Act, to the clerks of the peace, in regard to the number of persons entitled to vote in elections of members of parliament, the changes in the rolls during the year were as follows:—

	Legislative Council.	House of Assembly.
On the rolls after revision - - -	3,070	15,363
„ before revision - - -	3,006	15,094
Increase in electorate during the year -	64	269

It should, however, be observed that the numbers before revision do not, in some instances, agree with those returned as remaining on the rolls after revision in 1877. I would suggest that the clerks of the peace should be requested to compare the returns as they are received, and when any such discrepancies are discovered, to send them back for correction, so that they may be made really accurate, and not mere approximations.

* This excess can hardly have been general, since, as before stated, several of the collectors of agricultural statistics speak of the season in their respective districts as unusually dry.

Concluding Observations.

The material condition of the Colony during the past year was not so flourishing as in 1877. Several causes contributed to this result; among which were the low price of wool and the fall in the value of tin. The present rise in tin, if it continues, must produce a favourable change, by increasing the yield,—since it will enable poorer ground to be again worked, which, when the fall took place, was abandoned for the time as unprofitable—and the number of persons employed; and the bad seasons elsewhere may be expected to improve the prices of agricultural produce, and so advance the interest of the farmers. The commercial depression which has for some time prevailed over a large part of the world has doubtless extended to this Colony, and had an influence in retarding its progress; but from the more active prosecution of gold and tin mining which is now proceeding, the consequent opening up of new fields for enterprise, and the extension of internal communication, an increase of prosperity for the Colony may reasonably be anticipated.

Statistical Summary.

In obedience to a resolution of the House of Assembly, passed during the last session of Parliament, a summary of the principal statistics of the Colony, has been prefixed* to the present volume. The terms of that resolution were that the table prepared by Mr. H. M. Hull should be continued to the present time, but it appeared to me advisable to make certain changes, by leaving out some matters which seemed to be of less importance, and introducing others of more general interest. The figures have been revised throughout and rearranged, so that the work has, in fact, been done anew *ab initio*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,
Government Statistician.

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* Printed at the end of this Report.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY for TASMANIA (so far as the Particulars can be ascertained) from 1869 to 1878 inclusive.

Year.	Population.			Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Immigrants.	Emigrants.	General Revenue.*	Customs' Revenue.	General Expenditure.†	Expenditure by the Commissariat.	Coin in the Banks.	Public Debt.	Crown Lands Sales and Rental.		Acres in Cultivation.
	Adults.		Total on 31st December.												Acres sold.	Revenue from Sales and Rental of Crown Lands.	
	Males.	Females.							£	£	£	£	£	£		£	
1869	—	—	101,592	2,859	1,339	651	6,521	7,159	277,718	138,435	280,556	69,015	207,853	1,148,000	19,474	53,207	318,484
1870	52,853‡	46,475‡	100,765	3,054	1,409	670	5,982	5,888	270,128	137,035	282,624	65,759	181,717	1,268,700	23,759	43,051	330,257
1871	53,911	47,874	101,785	3,053	1,363	598	4,648	5,326	271,928	140,987	287,262	32,772	173,425	1,315,200	30,884	32,924	340,451
1872	54,418	48,507	102,925	3,010	1,416	632	5,665	6,127	273,598	138,232	290,874	35,344	207,327	1,412,300	26,165	33,749	331,433
1873	55,368	48,849	104,217	3,048	1,512	659	6,787	7,039	324,257	169,763	303,947	36,567	251,133	1,496,100	42,135	34,181	324,105
1874	55,117	49,049	104,176	3,097	1,690	712	6,265	7,714	333,732	181,302	325,195	14,485	239,134	1,505,700	73,287	38,203	326,486
1875	54,643	49,020	103,663	3,105	2,079	689	6,535	8,075	342,606	181,328	385,731	14,145	245,458	1,489,400	42,308	44,566	332,824
1876	55,633	49,851	105,484	3,149	1,733	746	8,571	8,169	327,017	185,037	341,889	15,412	256,498	1,520,500	26,567	33,676	332,558
1877	56,523	50,581	107,104	3,211	2,040	831	9,717	9,270	366,118	201,966	352,461	17,258	305,904	1,589,705	39,522	44,325	348,841
1878	58,036	51,911	109,947	3,502	1,700	866	9,524	8,483	386,060§	211,030	375,601§	17,831	302,712	1,758,500	46,241	49,554	355,403

* Excluding loans.
‡ Census, 7th February 1870.

† Excluding expenditure defrayed by loans.
§ Subject to future revision.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY for TASMANIA (so far as the Particulars can be ascertained) from 1869 to 1878 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Grain Crop and Potatoes.				Apples.	Pears.	Live Stock.				Number of Live Stock imported.			Number of Live Stock exported.			Total Value of imports.	Total Value of exports.
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.			Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.		
	bush.	bush.	bush.	tons.	bush.	bush.											£	£
1869	1,004,579	772,765	208,479	34,211	132,200	23,070	22,583	95,097	1,531,187	49,524	13	1,723	25,479	331	1	2,890	975,412	826,932
1870	896,881	691,250	161,729	36,028	147,614	27,553	22,679	101,459	1,349,775	49,432	24	1,640	19,260	222	3	907	792,916	648,709
1871	847,962	593,477	76,812	22,608	142,756	20,801	23,054	101,540	1,305,489	52,863	38	926	13,091	272	7	998	778,087	740,638
1872	1,161,859	707,763	131,401	29,447	143,486	25,097	24,244	104,594	1,395,353	53,927	14	828	5,398	442	75	2,433	807,182	910,663
1873	947,813	561,247	124,459	24,970	174,551	15,042	22,612	106,308	1,490,746	59,628	15	918	13,197	526	305	2,586	1,107,167	893,556
1874	1,066,861	877,243	125,469	26,169	150,978	31,020	23,208	110,450	1,714,168	51,468	18	790	20,988	629	17	1,997	1,257,785	925,325
1875	700,092	827,043	165,357	24,455	136,682	16,310	23,473	118,694	1,719,768	47,664	28	1,211	22,971	402	178	1,673	1,185,942	1,085,976
1876	752,070	571,485	147,537	27,290	153,812	23,148	23,622	124,459	1,755,142	60,681	30	805	12,054	328	7	1,299	1,133,003	1,130,983
1877	846,420	488,350	86,840	27,106	138,215	16,583	22,195	126,882	1,818,125	55,652	40	904	8,385	266	126	1,303	1,308,671	1,416,975
1878	778,977	714,987	97,845	27,257	137,215	18,684	24,107	126,276	1,838,831	39,595	58	1,347	10,980	287	15	654	1,324,812	1,315,695

STATISTICAL SUMMARY for TASMANIA (so far as the Particulars can be ascertained) from 1869 to 1878 inclusive—*continued.*

Year.	Exports of					Produce of Whale Fisheries.	Shipping.				No. of certain Trades and Manufactures.	Flour Mills in operation.	Government Schools.			No. of Post Offices.	Meteorological Register (Hobart Town).		
	Timber, value.	Grain, Hay, Flour, and Bran, value.	Wool.		Fruit, Jams, and Vegetables, value.		Inwards.		Outwards.				No.	Scholars on the Rolls.	Average Daily Attendance.		Barometer, Mean.	Thermometer, Mean.	Rainfall in Inches.
			Quantity.	Value.			No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.									
	£	£	lbs.	£	£	£											ins.	degs.	ins.
1869	42,617	126,634	5,607,083	303,209	149,996	48,910	652	114,410	664	112,565	2,745	76	116	9,316	4,511	134	29·875	56·10	23·87
1870	37,267	86,718	4,146,913	246,402	108,769	35,880	613	105,647	611	107,263	3,194	82	128	9,997	5,041	140	29·914	55·96	27·53
1871	49,540	128,005	5,254,719	298,160	89,414	46,350	635	107,271	648	108,889	3,101	72	130	10,194	5,187	144	29·882	57·12	18·25
1872	46,614	100,281	5,998,527	434,133	92,748	27,420	594	102,379	595	103,101	3,334	77	139	10,491	5,209	146	29·837	57·34	31·76
1873	63,246	148,032	4,243,433	314,068	113,661	44,000	661	118,353	681	119,759	3,386	75	141	10,803	5,268	154	29·903	58·43	23·43
1874	75,422	123,595	5,050,920	350,713	132,321	30,780	607	119,706	620	119,801	3,391	65	147	12,158	5,867	163	29·894	57·52	24·09
1875	88,645	130,044	6,199,248	433,550	144,546	12,465	631	129,102	664	133,107	3,300	65	154	12,271	5,703	170	29·818	58·83	29·25
1876	65,151	65,516	6,848,517	439,603	157,993	41,740	639	141,181	616	136,303	3,338	69	158	12,231	5,867	177	29·863	54·76*	23·63
1877	72,909	93,729	8,016,396	522,885	176,286	31,605	678	159,308	680	160,209	3,232	79	165	12,557	5,973	180	29·915	54·28	20·82
1878	72,989	37,590	7,512,662	479,165	171,971	16,920	693	159,063	688	156,791	3,218	76	164	12,453	6,032	191	29·804	55·02	29·76

* Mean for 11 months.

E. C. NOWELL, Government Statistician.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

No. 5.

Lieutenant-Governor BARLEE, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Belize,
March 1, 1880.

SIR,

THE speedy compilation and receipt of the annual returns have enabled me at an earlier date than has been usual to transmit for your information the "Blue Book" for the year 1879.

Revenue.

2. The estimated revenue amounted to 42,857*l.* 12*s.*, the actual amount received by the Treasury was 40,324*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, showing a reduction of 2,532*l.*. 3*s.* 1*d.* From the actual sum received 5,241*l.* 10*s.* must be deducted as proceeds of the sale of surplus funds invested in England, thus reducing the revenue of the year to 35,082*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*

The failure in revenue occurred in "spirits" and "ad valorem goods," and was in these items respectively 3,374*l.* and 5,059*l.* less than the estimated amount. I account for this deficit by the large stocks held by merchants prior to the commencement of bonding warehouses, as also to undue importation in 1878, to which I alluded in my Blue Book report of last year, as likely to affect the revenue of 1879, but it is now certain that the bonding stores are full, and those of the merchants comparatively empty. On nearly every other head of revenue the estimate was well realised, and in some instances exceeded. The exceptions were "interest," "postal revenue," and "assessed taxes," the total deficit on these three items amounting to 533*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* The sale of surplus funds accounts for the loss in interest; the postal revenue declined consequent on a reduced rate of postage decided by the "postal union," and the deficit under assessed taxes was under 30*l.*

Expenditure.

3. The estimated expenditure was 48,060*l.* 6*s.*, and that actually disbursed was 50,699*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, showing an excess of 2,639*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* The excess is thus accounted for:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Loss on two purchased bills sent to Crown Agents	1,100	0	0
Drawbacks on goods exported not contemplated on estimates	643	0	0
Mail service for 1878 paid in 1879	1,000	0	0
Increased number of prisoners	500	0	0
Excess beyond estimate in building new public offices	1,000	0	0
	£4,243	0	0

BRITISH HONDURAS.

As compared with 1878 the expenditure for establishments is almost identical, and for services outside establishments, there is a reduction in 1879 of 3,566*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* Only 1,250*l.* was paid during the year towards the contribution for Imperial troops, but a sum of 3,400*l.* was disbursed for payment of Colonial debentures falling due.

State of Trade.

4. Throughout the year 1879 there was a general depression in trade, and this depression permeated throughout the Colony and had its effect, more or less, in every industry. The failure of an important and old established firm was, perhaps, one of the main causes of this depression; the immediate effect of that has now passed away, while the sale of large sugar estates and of log-wood and mahogany works in small lots to purchasers in the Colony will, I think, stimulate the trade in these articles, and probably lead to a considerable increase of production. The now fairly established steam communication with the United States is having good effect in the cultivation of fruit, for which there is an abundant demand, and for the production of which in great variety, this Colony is peculiarly adapted.

Debt.

5. The balance of the public debt was met during 1879 with the exception of 1,110*l.* 16*s.*; the debentures for which will fall due during the current year. The only debts to which the Colony is at present liable are an outstanding account of 7,333*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, due to the Imperial Government for military services (in abeyance for some years), and the sum of 3,750*l.* for similar services in 1879.

Colonial Military Expenditure.

6. The sum expended for military purposes was 3,417*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* as against 9,714*l.* 11*s.* in 1878. The fort and barracks at Corosal, erected at a cost bordering on 5,000*l.*, were occupied in the early part of the year. The annual military contribution from the Colony for 1879 was not decided on till subsequent to the close of the year, and is now held over for want of funds to meet the expenditure.

Volunteers.

The cost for volunteers was heavy, and amounted to 1,165*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, but for this sum uniforms were provided for two companies in addition to all expenses incidental to the movement, in respect of which there is the same earnestness and determination that have characterised it from the first commencement in 1877.* Rules and regulations placing the volunteers under effective

* The uniforms for the Belize volunteers were paid for by Crown Agents in December 1879, but will be shown in the Colonial accounts of 1880, the books having been closed prior to the accounts reaching Belize.

6th March 1880. F. P. B.

discipline and management have been framed and accepted by the volunteers, who have, as it were, enlisted afresh under them, and by these means the permanency of the movement appears to be greatly promoted.

Public Works.

7. The principal public works during 1879 have been :—
The new court house and public offices which will be completed and occupied within a few weeks;
The thorough repair of the buildings and the construction of new and efficient lights in the several lighthouses;
The completion of the new bonding warehouses;
An expenditure of 1,600*l.* in the opening of new and the maintenance of existing roads or tracks; and
An expenditure of nearly 2,000*l.* in the maintenance and repair of existing public buildings throughout the Colony, including two new police stations, and engineer's store, and baths, and other accommodation required at the hospital and asylum in Belize.

Legislation.

8. The Legislative Council met on the 18th of August 1879 and remained in session till the 30th September. During that period 16 Bills were passed, among which were two important measures for the re-constitution of the Supreme Court and the better administration of justice. These measures were framed on the basis of the Leeward Islands Bill. The process of consolidating all the laws in force on any one subject into one measure was proceeded with, and an important Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the sale and disposal of Crown lands was passed. A Bill was also carried by which all laws either obsolete or not in use were removed from the Statute Book, which will do much to simplify the reprinting of the laws in force so soon as the consolidation above alluded to is concluded.

Mail Service.

9. The contract with the Royal Mail Company for a steamer once a month between Jamaica and Belize at an annual cost of 5,000*l.* expired on the 30th September last. Under that contract, letters from England reached Belize in 24 days, and from Belize to England in 28 days. A new mail contract between Belize and New Orleans and *vice versâ* once in three weeks commenced on the 1st of October at an annual cost of 4,400*l.*, under which letters to and from England are conveyed in 18 days. The new arrangement has worked satisfactorily hitherto, and though much opposition to its introduction was at first displayed, the advantages of the change are gradually being appreciated. The good effect of competition has been shown in respect of this movement. Belize, previous to the change in the mail service, seldom saw any other merchant steamer than that from Jamaica; notwith-

BRITISH HONDURAS.

standing the Royal Mail Company has lost its subsidy, it has to the present date continued to send the monthly steamer from Jamaica. A Liverpool company has arranged for a steamer from thence to call at Belize once a month, and an unsuccessful tenderer for the contract to and from New Orleans runs an opposition steamer every three weeks. Thus, the Colony has derived benefit in every direction; by the more economical, speedy, and direct postal communication with England and the United States, by the continual introduction of food supplies, the certainty thereby of regular and moderate charges; by the more frequent means of outside communication and the supply of freight on through bills of lading viâ the United States at a cost not exceeding that charged by the Royal Mail Company.

Pensions.

10. No addition has been made to the pension list during 1879, nor has any decrease occurred in the number of pensioners. The total cost for this service is at present 977*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

Population.

11. The population returns are based on the census taken in 1871 and must not be relied on as in any way accurate. There are no official records of births or deaths, and it would be simply impossible to enforce such outside towns, and very difficult to do so within them.

The registered baptisms and deaths were respectively 740 and 300, but, of course, these only represent a small fraction of births or deaths, confined to those who belong to some religious denomination in a town. Any attempt, at present, to procure reliable statistics among an ignorant population of many nationalities, few of whom can speak one word of English, or understand the rudiments of civilisation, would, I believe, result in utter failure.

Savings Bank.

12. The number of depositors in the savings bank at the end of 1879 was 169, and the amount deposited a little in excess of 4,000*l.*, or about an average of 24*l.* for each depositor. Hitherto, the funds have remained idle in the Treasury chest, and the cost of interest as well as that of working the savings bank has fallen on the public; but means are now being taken to invest the funds and thus make the savings bank, if not a remunerative institution, one that will, at all events, not prove a charge upon Colonial funds.

Friendly Societies.

13. Under the Friendly Societies Ordinance passed in 1879, one society only has registered itself, and it was on the application of that society that the measure was introduced; its members are at present few in number, but additional adherents are anticipated now that the society is working under legal enactment.

Education.

14. The total number of children on the roll of those schools receiving public aid from Colonial funds was 1,440, the average daily attendance little in excess of 1,000, and the cost per head, including all services, averaged 1*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* The number of schools examined was 12; two additional schools were opened towards the close of the year, but were not examined for results. During the year, the Reverend John Jackson, a Presbyterian minister in Belize, and an experienced school inspector, was nominated inspector of schools, and for the first time, all schools were examined by one person and on one system. Some reliable data as to the progress of the several schools, from year to year, may now be anticipated, as well as some rivalry or competition between the various school teachers in the Colony, to whom the results of the 1879 examination have been forwarded.

Currency.

15. The currency question still remains in an unsettled state, and the course of exchange is most unsatisfactory. British sterling and United States coins are never seen. Any of these coins which may come into the Colony are at once exported. Commercial bills on England at 90 days' sight command from 3½ to 4 per cent., and though the majority of the coin in circulation passes at its nominal value in the Colony it would, if exported, entail a loss of from 12 to 15 per cent.

Imports.

16. The imports during 1879 amounted to 159,883*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*, as against 191,490*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* in 1878, and were less in value by 12,000*l.* and 8,000*l.* respectively than in 1876 and 1877.

From England and the United States, the imports from 1876 to 1879 were as follows :—

—	England.	United States.
	£	£
1876 - -	99,946	51,586
1877 - -	84,500	69,976
1878 - -	110,798	70,044
1879 - -	79,284	59,734

The major portion of the provisions and bread stuffs consumed in the Colony are from the United States, from whence, during the last two years, they have been invoiced at considerably lower rates than in previous years. The trade with the United States is increasing and must continue to do so; it will be seen that, at the least, 30,000*l.* in value of the imports from England were received in transit for Central American States.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Exports.

17. The exports for the year amounted to 187,673*l.* 4*s.* as against 131,006*l.* in 1878, but in this amount, is shown, so far as has been practicable, the value of goods sent to this Colony in transit for the several Republics in its vicinity; it may be well to mention that 7,727 packages were received in the early part of 1879, and exported prior to the directions to insist on an invoice value of all goods received in transit for other places.

Of the above exports, the value of—

£	
117,896	went to the United Kingdom.
45,635	„ to the United States.
16,392	„ to Central American Republics (and 7,727 packages, value unknown).
7,736	„ to Mexico.

Those to Central American Republics and Mexico cannot be classed as the products of the Colony. The Colonial Secretary has informed me that the old blue book forms for imports and exports have been used instead of the new ones required by Circular Dispatch of 31st January 1879, as no supply of the latter has been received in the Colony, and that the information required by the new forms is comprised in the returns sent, but it does not appear in exactly the shape required. Had I been aware of the absence of proper forms, they should have been prepared here.

Shipping.

18. The number inward and outward of sailing and steam vessels during 1878 and 1879, shows progress so far as steam communication is concerned, and is of material benefit to the Colony.

—	No. entered.	No. cleared.
1878.		
Sailing vessels, 30,000 tons - - -	301	321
Steam vessels, 11,707 tons - - -	18	18
1879.		
Sailing vessels, 30,000 tons - - -	301	289
Steam vessels, 23,168 tons - - -	38	38

Agriculture, &c.

19. There has been a considerable impetus during the latter part of 1879, in respect of the cultivation of fruit for export to the United States. Individuals are exerting themselves, and a company has been formed, with the intention to commence this industry on a large scale, There is an unlimited demand from the United States, and the periodical visits of steamers at short intervals ensures a constant demand for all that can at present be supplied or that will probably henceforth be produced.

The mail contract steamer, as well as a trading steamer, call

every three weeks and purchase fruit, and each proceeds to Utilla or Truxillo for such further supplies as are not available here. There can be no doubt that they would willingly complete their lading at Belize if the fruit was forthcoming.

A grant of land has been promised to a gentleman from Paris, in consideration of his undertaking to plant coffee on a large scale; this he has already commenced, and he is sanguine of success. It is an undoubted fact that excellent coffee is grown in the Colony.

Early in 1879 a number of Italians, who had, under some mistake, been landed in Spanish Honduras and failed to find employment there, found their way to this Colony in a state of semi-starvation. They were well treated here and subsequently located on grants of land, and for a time settled down, and were apparently well pleased. A hope was entertained that a flourishing Italian Settlement would be formed, but through quarrels among themselves, the settlement became, more or less, broken up. Some were induced to try their fortunes elsewhere, others preferred town life, and but few have remained on the land on which they were located. The majority of those who arrived still remain in the Colony, and are earning their livelihood by daily labour.

Land.

20. The new land law came into operation in September 1879, and under its provisions country lands can be purchased at 1$ an acre, and leased for cultivation in large blocks at 10 cents an acre, with a pre-emption right at 1$. Already considerable advantage has been taken of these liberal terms, and more applications have been received during the last three months to purchase and lease lands than has occurred in as many previous years.

I have little doubt that the effect of this measure will be very beneficial in settling down on the soil numerous industrious families who can earn an honest livelihood without very hard labour, of which even the most industrious are by no means fond.

I am assured that the residents at the Bay Islands, which formerly belonged to the British Government, but which were some time since transferred to Spanish Honduras, are so dissatisfied with the Government under which they live and the heavy taxation to which they are subject, that it is their desire to migrate "en masse" to this Colony, and that it is only the want of means to do so that has prevented them from carrying this into effect.

Mr. Fowler's Exploration.

In connexion with the question of land, allusion may be made to a report* published by Mr. Henry Fowler, the Colonial Secretary, of a journey across the unexplored portion of this Colony, which resulted in the discovery of a large tract of country well adapted for pastoral or agricultural purposes, abounding in mineral indications and with splendid belts of mahogany and other marketable woods. This country is well suited for Euro-

* p. 85 in [C.–2598] 1880.

BRITISH HONDURAS

peans, and the necessary capital alone is wanting to open it up. Attached to Mr. Fowler's report is a sketch of the history and resources of the Colony, and the publication forms a very fair "hand book" of British Honduras.

Crime.

21. There is nothing in the criminal statistics that call for special remark; there has been no capital case during the year, and none of a nature demanding any remark. The number of convictions during the year has been little above the average of the last three years.

Hospital, Asylum, &c.

22. There has been no epidemic during the year, and no serious illness of any kind. The average number of patients admitted to the Belize Hospital has not been in excess of that in previous years. The number of lunatics has not increased, and there has been a marked improvement in the health and comfort of the patients since the completion of the new asylum. It is now the exception for any patient to give trouble, and restraint is almost unknown. Employment is provided for them in various ways, such as basket making, fishing nets, working in the garden, and generally they are made useful in various ways.

Border Troubles.

23. The year 1879 did not pass away without the fear of serious troubles with the Ycaiché tribe of Indians. In July and August they commenced to give trouble in demanding rent from persons who were in the occupation of land undoubtedly within the boundary of the Colony; they were apparently not satisfied with the replies they received to the communications addressed to the Government by their Chief, nor the warnings given to them to remain quiet. In October, without any previous communication with the Colonial authorities, they sent an armed party and carried away some people from a village within the Colony, under the pretence that some one of them had committed a murder. Before they were aware that information of this raid had reached the head-quarters of this Government, their Chief, "General Santiago Pech," had entered the confines of the Colony with a view to purchase arms; he was arrested and retained within the Fort at Orange Walk till he restored those who had been improperly seized by his orders. After an incarceration of 14 days, during which period no Indian was allowed to enter the Colony and all trade was stopped, all those who had been taken away were restored, and "General Pech" was allowed to go free. It is believed by all who are best acquainted with the Indians that they have received a salutary lesson, and one from which it is probable they may take warning for the future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 6.

Sir A. MUSGRAVE, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

King's House, Jamaica,
June 16, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of Turks Islands for the year 1879, together with a copy of the Commissioner's Report thereon.

2. Considering the unusually unfavourable character of the seasons during the last year in respect of the making of salt, which is the principal industry of the place, the financial administration of the year seems to have been very satisfactory, and is creditable to the Commissioner. I have already called attention to this in a letter addressed to the Colonial Department from Florence.

3. There is reason to expect a much better revenue from the royalty on salt during the present year, and the circumstances of the community generally will doubtless improve with more abundant collections of their principal product.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS for the year 1879.

Revenue.

The total receipts from all sources amounted during the year to 5,843*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenditure to 6,089*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, the difference between which sums was met by using part of the balance of 489*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* left on 31st December 1878, and reduced that surplus to 244*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* on 31st December 1879.

The revenue which is 1,500*l.* below the average of the last five years, 1874–8, suffered to that amount by the loss of the royalty on salt and light dues owing to the failure through continuous and unprecedented rain of the salt crop.

The expenditure, which is over 900*l.* below the average annual expenditure for the last five years, 1874–8, has been effected largely by the reduction in the civil establishment during the

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

year, which secured the result of the revenue and expenditure, being within 250*l.* of each other.

	£	s.	d.
Average revenue, 1874–78 -	7,399	18	3
Revenue, 1879 - - -	5,843	16	4
Decrease -	1,556	1	11

	£	s.	d.
Average expenditure, 1874–8 -	7,019	6	0
Expenditure, 1879 - -	6,089	5	2
Decrease -	930	0	10

Imports and Exports.

Notwithstanding the failure of the staple product and export to an extent never before experienced, the value of the imports and the duties received thereon were equal to the average of the five years preceding that under review.

—	1874–8.			1879.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Value of imports - - - -	22,425	19	2	21,938	19	8
Duties received - - - -	2,728	8	6	2,784	6	2

The average value of the exports for the year 1874–8 and 1879 were as follows :—

—	1874–8.			1879.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salt - - - - - -	24,057	12	8	14,030	9	7
Cave earth - - - - -	1,285	4	1	1,943	19	8
Miscellaneous :						
Sponge, palmetto, straw, shells, &c. -	479	10	8	641	9	0
Total - - -	25,822	7	5	16,615	18	3

It will thus be seen that the average annual value of the exports exceeds that of the imports by 3,396*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, but that in the year 1879 the value of the exports was 5,323*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* less than the imports, showing a sad balance of trade against the Settlement to that amount.

The subjoined tables, relating to trade and commerce, generally show clearly the state of affairs.

AVERAGE VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES between the years 1874–8 and for the year 1879.

Articles.	1874–8.			1879.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salt	24,057	12	8	14,030	9	7
Cave earth, 1876–8	1,285	4	1	1,943	19	8
Miscellaneous:						
Sponge, shells, palmetto, straw	479	10	8	641	9	0
Totals	25,822	7	5	16,615	18	3

AVERAGE VALUE of IMPORTS between the years 1874–8, and for the year 1879.

	1874–8.			1879.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Imports	22,425	19	9	21,938	19	8

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port between the years 1874–8 and for the year 1879.

Ports.	1874–8.	1879.
Grand Turk	613,157	102,116
Salt Cay	425,757	165,536
Cockburn Harbour	472,388	328,836
Total bushels	1,511,302	596,488

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1878 - 85,000 bushels.
" " " 1879 - 1,500 "

RAINFALL at GRAND TURK, SALT CAY, and COCKBURN HARBOUR for each month of the year 1879.

Months.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.
January	4 9	1 0 5	not taken.
February	7 0 0	6 3 4	2 2 9
March	7 5	2 9 1	8 0
April	2 0 3	3 5 0	1 1 8
May	8 1 8	4 4 7	3 6 5
June	6 4	1 4 9	1 3 9
July	3 0 8	3 3 7	2 4 9
August	3 9 2	3 9 3	4 4 0
September	3 7 2	1 2 9	1 6 8
October	7 2 5	3 4 8	3 0 6
November	7 3 1	5 8 9	10 5 2
December	1 0 3	3 5	1 3 0
Total	45 4 0	38 0 7	32 7 6

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

RETURN of the NUMBER and CLASS of VESSELS that passed the LIGHT-HOUSE at GRAND TURK by daylight in 1879.

War Vessels.	Steamers.	Ships.	Barques.	Barkantines.	Brigs.	Brigantines.	Three-masted Schooners.	Schooners.	Total.
4	11	1	22	6	10	183	41	201	470

Public Works.

The expenditure on public works amounted to 437*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, which is 187*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* in excess of the annual sum of 250*l.* voted for this service. Owing, however, to the very bad state of repair into which all the public buildings had been allowed to fall, much of this was indispensable, and includes an expenditure of a sum of 132*l.* 5*s.* on the building of 136 feet of sea wall in front of the town of Grand Turk, in extension of what existed, and leaves now a very short piece to be built to complete the embankment all along the seaboard in front of the town for its protection. The large public tank burst unexpectedly during the year, and caused an unforeseen expenditure of 25*l.* 6*s.* The public buildings, which had not been touched for nearly 20 years, have been thoroughly painted up inside and out. A new road which was petitioned for was constructed to the Northern Wells, at Grand Turk, at a cost of 32*l.* 10*s.* Rain gauges have been erected at the three principal Settlements, and registers are now kept and published monthly of the rainfall.

A Code of Signals has been supplied for the purpose of communicating with vessels passing through the passage; and several minor works have been carried out in improving the public wells at Kew, and other places on the Caicos Islands, as well as in repairing school houses, and in aiding to build chapels on the condition that they be used as school houses during the week.

Legislation.

Nine ordinances were passed during the year 1879.

One providing for the giving of security by public officers through the means of any guarantee society. Another for the better regulation of the pilots and allowing compulsory pilotage.

Ordinance No. 6 re-organizes the police force and abolishes the office of chief constable and the two corporals of police, and provides for the annual appointment of constables and local police. The changes sanctioned by this law will reduce the annual expenditure on this service, which was excessive, to about its former cost.

Ordinance No. 4, which is the most important, provides for the raising of a special fund to be spent on the maintenance and improvement of the salt pond, and fixes the market value of salt at 33*s.* 4*d.* for five years, on which the ad valorem royalty duty is to be paid.

By the former Law which it amends, the salt pond commissioners had power to fix the value of salt monthly, and to demand money from the proprietors for the maintenance of canals and other works used in common. Great difficulty and trouble was experienced in collecting these rates from the several salt pond proprietors, and the salt pond commissioners were consequently unwilling to take the risk of incurring expenditure. Necessary works were therefore neglected and improvements unthought of. The Government now collects at the Custom House with the royalty before a vessel is cleared, a small additional tax, which is kept exclusively for the salt pond works and improvements. By the aid and on the guarantee of this separate fund the expenditure of which, as well as the collection, is under the control of the executive, I was enabled to make some advances from the public chest for some necessary improvements. I believe this Ordinance will be found to be a great benefit to the salt pond proprietors, as it reduces the royalty to a fixed sum, and it will ensure to the Government the expenditure of money on the maintenance and improvement of property in which it has an interest to the extent of 10 per cent. of the value of its produce.

Consuls.

Mr. Francis P. Van. Wyck arrived here in June from New York, and took up his residence as Consul for the United States in these Islands.

Poor's House and Hospital.

This institution was closed on the 30th June, as it was found that the poorer classes would not go there, and the expenses of servants to keep the buildings in order was excessive in proportion to the number of inmates. A system of out-door relief is continued, and is more suited to this Settlement, where it is quite practicable for the Government Medical Officer to visit all the sick in their own houses in a day, for there is very little sickness here but "old age."

A lunatic was sent to the asylum in Jamaica to be maintained there at the cost of the Settlement as provided for by Jamaica Law 30 of 1873.

Civil Establishment.

Reductions in the staff have been made, and it is hoped that other offices may be amalgamated and reduced.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Ecclesiastical.

These islands are nearly entirely without religious instruction. A pensioned clergyman of the Church of England lives at Salt Cay, and a Wesleyan minister at Grand Turk. The Bishop of Nassau, in whose diocese these Islands are, hopes shortly to be able to find a clergyman for Grand Turk, and I believe a Baptist minister is expected.

General Remarks.

The year 1879 will long be remembered as the worst one known for salt raking; the average annual shipments for 30 years amount to one million and a half bushels of salt, whilst in 1879 only a little more than half a million bushels was exported.

This was entirely due to the frequent and unusual rains which prevented the pans from making salt, and the fact of Turks Islands being without a bushel of salt on hand for the greater part of the year was until quite recently always thought to be an impossibility even for a short period.

During the latter part of April I was able to visit the whole of the Settlements on the Caicos Islands, which are agricultural and not salt islands. I hope to see the cultivation of fruit carried out there for exportation to the United States, as the proximity of these Islands to the Northern Continent places them geographically at a great advantage over Jamaica in the length of passage of fruit shipped by sailing vessels, and I am endeavouring to encourage this profitable industry.

The general health of the Islands has been very good, and the behaviour of the people as hitherto has been orderly throughout. Murder is an unknown crime here, and there is, comparatively speaking, very little larceny. The only time when anything like disorder occurs is on the occasion of a wreck, but as I hope these disasters are annually decreasing, so I believe the people will go to steadier and more regular work.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
21st April 1880, Turks Islands. Commissioner.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 7.

From Governor KORTRIGHT to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
July 24, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1879, together with the report thereon, drawn up by Mr. Melville, the Assistant Government Secretary.

2. Mr. Melville's report appears to me to be so exhaustive, that I think it unnecessary I should make any remarks on the subjects dealt with therein.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the COLONY of BRITISH GUIANA for the Year 1879.

Finances.

1. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1879 shows a total collected of 395,740*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.*, and a falling off, as compared with the total of the year 1878, of 13,518*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.* This decrease is found under the amounts collected for import, and wine and spirit duties, and is attributable to the general depression which prevailed in the trade of the Colony during the first three quarters of last year.

Increased receipts are shown from retail spirit licenses and from establishments under Government.

The revenue, however, realized from general import duties, exceeded the estimate by upwards of 7,000*l.*, and from wine and spirit and rum duties the increase in revenue over the estimate was upwards of 2,000*l.* Having in view, therefore, the depression in trade, the above figures speak well for the financial condition of the Colony.

2. The expenditure of the year 1879 amounted to the sum of 387,642*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, while in 1878 there was expended a total of 417,995*l.* 15*s.* 10½*d.* This shows a decrease in 1879 of 30,353*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.*; and of this sum nearly 26,000*l.* is shown under Works and Buildings. A considerable decrease is also shown under the head of Immigration.

BRITISH GUIANA.

3. The total receipts available in the Colonial treasury in 1879, as shown by the statement of the Colonial book-keeper amounted to the sum of 596,779*l.* 16*s.* 2½*d.*, as compared with 632,161*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* in 1878, which includes the revenue collected in 1879, the deposits, repayments, and other special receipts; and the planter's contribution to the immigration fund, and also the balance of 140,405*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*, remaining in the Treasury brought from the year 1878. The total payments, including the general expenditure, repayments of deposits, special payments, the amount expended upon public works raised upon loan, and the planter's share of the cost of immigration, amounted to the sum of 515,335*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*, as against the sum of 491,756*l.* 2*s.* in 1878; leaving a balance of 81,443*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, which has been carried to the year 1880, of which balance the sum of 38,670*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* is available for the general service of the Colony, the remainder being required for services performed, but not liquidated, and to meet the payments of deposits and other special objects.

Local Revenues.

4. The local revenues of the mayor and town council of the city of Georgetown show a decrease in 1879 of 3,085*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.*, the revenue of 1879 being 34,993*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, while that of 1878 was 38,078*l.* 18*s.* 5½*d.* The expenditure in 1879, shows also a decrease, being 35,295*l.* 6*s.* 3½*d.* as compared with 38,609*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* in 1878.

The revenue receipts of the town of New Amsterdam and the expenditure by that body are carried out showing the same total, viz.:—4,503*l.* 16*s.* 8½*d.*, and this shows, as compared with the year 1878, a decrease in the revenue of 263*l.* 1*s.* 9½*d.*; and an increase in expenditure of 663*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*

The incorporated villages of the Colony show a revenue collected in 1879, of 4,916*l.* 14*s.* 11½*d.*, and an amount still due to be recovered of 3,852*l.* 11*s.* 3½*d.*, while the expenditure under various heads gives a total of 6,142*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.* Their liability to Government has been decreased by the sum of 1,212*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

The total of the local revenues of the colony for the year 1879 is 44,413*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, and of the expenditure 45,941*l.* 3*s.* 4½*d.*, as compared with 50,551*l.* 10*s.* 4½*d.*, and 47,343*l.* 1*s.* 11½*d.* for the previous year. The excess of expenditure over revenue is shown in the returns from the mayor and town council of Georgetown and from the villages.

Public Debt.

5. The amount of the public debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1879, for which the general revenue is directly pledged, was 17,367*l.*

6. In addition to the above amount there are the following sums guaranted by the general revenue of the Colony, for which

there is ample security, and which are borrowed for the undermentioned purposes, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
On account of planters for immigration purposes - - - - -	178,400	0	0
For the mayor and town council of the city of Georgetown, for which the municipal revenues are pledged - - -	48,278	10	10
For the board of superintendence of the town of New Amsterdam secured by the town revenues - - - - -	5,694	8	10½
	232,372	19	8½
These loans, together with the public debt -	17,367	0	0
Give a grand total of - -	249,739	19	8½

Public Works.

7. The total amount expended during the year 1879, upon public works, civil roads, canals, bridges, sanitary works, water-supply works, and sea defences, was 48,339*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.*, distributed thus:—

	£	s.	d.
County of Demerara - - -	21,973	10	9
„ Essequibo - - -	10,712	3	2
„ Berbice - - -	5,247	6	0
And miscellaneous - - -	10,406	0	5½

The expenditure in 1878 under the same heads was 97,876*l.* 13*s.* 4½*d.* The principal items of expenditure were in the county of Demerara—

	£	s.	d.
Training college - - -	1,698	4	8
Colonial hospital - - -	2,661	5	11
Sea wall and dam - - -	2,401	9	0½
East Groyne "Best" - - -	4,090	4	5
Ponderoyen Groyne - - -	1,977	0	11
In the county of Essequibo—			
Public hospital - - - -	2,280	10	7
Reformatory Onderneeming - -	1,085	6	6
Telegraph to penal settlement - -	1,487	2	4
Stelling Tuschen-de-Vrienden - -	1,695	4	11

In the county of Berbice.—For police stations, police hospital, &c., 1,057*l.* 14*s.* 9½*d.* and 1,022*l.* 9*s.* 10½*d.* Under "Miscellaneous" there was expended the sum of 2,982*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.* in erecting public tanks in the three counties.

Legislation.

8. Nine laws were passed in 1879.

9. Ordinance 5 is chiefly to be noted, which makes provision for a want greatly felt in the Colony, the establishment and regulation of a school for the proper instruction and training of vagrant boys and youthful male offenders.

Ordinance 6 provides for the raising of a loan for public purposes, and Ordinances 7 and 8 authorize loans granted by the Combined Court of 1879.

Court of Policy.

10. Among the non-official or elective members, Mr. R. P. Drysdale vacated his seat at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court, and was re-elected a member of the Court of Policy. The following members resigned on leaving the Colony: Mr. H. T. Garnett, Mr. E. T. Henery, Mr. J. W. Davson, and Mr. A. C. McCalman, and their seats were filled by Messrs. C. L. Bascom, H. K. Davson, William Russell, and Josias Booker respectively.

Combined Court.

11. Mr. T. H. Glennie was elected in the room of Mr. John Moore, who resigned on leaving the Colony; Mr. D. C. Cameron, senior, succeeded Mr. William Craigen, who resigned on leaving the Colony; Mr. A. J. Pitman succeeded Mr. E. Stephens, who resigned on leaving the Colony; and Mr. E. T. Henery succeeded Mr. R. J. Kelly, whose term of service had expired.

College of Electors.

12. Mr. G. L. Davson was elected to the vacancy caused by Mr. E. T. Henery being elected a member of the Court of Policy.

Civil Establishment.

13. It is satisfactory to report that during the year 1879 fewer deaths have occurred among public officers than in any year since 1871, the average mortality being only 5·35 per cent.

The deaths of the following five officers are recorded:—J. I. Alexander, District Medical Officer; G. C. Broadhead, Customs' Department; Charles Glen Bott, District Medical Officer; Walter B. Eddy, Second Master, Queen's College, and H. Stanley Burrowes, Commissary of Taxation.

14. Among the new appointments were those of Mr. Philip Henry Nind, formerly Auditor-General of Trinidad, who succeeded the late Mr. W. B. Pollard as Auditor-General; of Mr. E. E. H. Francis, lately Government Analyst at Trinidad, who was appointed Analytical Chemist and Master for Chemistry at Queen's College; of Mr. John A. Dalziel, who succeeded Mr. R. W. Wingfield as First Marshal; of Mr. G. S. Jenman, who was appointed to the new office of Government Botanist and Superintendent of the

Botanic Gardens; of Mr. George Snell, who was appointed to the new office of Assistant Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum; of Drs. Buhôt and Honiball, who were appointed Supernumerary Medical Officers; of Mr. G. T. White, who succeeded Mr. F. A. Gall, who had been acting as Assistant Superintendent of the Penal Settlement; of Mr. F. A. Gall, who was appointed to the new office of Superintendent of the Onderneeming School and Reformatory for vagrant boys and youthful male offenders; and of Mr. Herbert Barclay, who was appointed Special Magistrate of the Demerara River and Superintendent of Crown lands.

Mr. T. S. Halliday was appointed to the new office of Accountant and Chief Clerk to the Administrator-General.

Among the promotions were those of Mr. Charles P. Austin to the office of Colonial Receiver-General in succession to Mr. E. J. Eagles, who retired on pension; of Mr. George Melville, who succeeded Mr. C. P. Austin as Assistant Government Secretary; of Mr. F. W. Collier, who succeeded Mr. George Melville as Chief Clerk in the office of the Government Secretary; and of Dr. Henry Hunter, who was promoted to be a district medical officer.

Pensions.

15. The following officers retired on pension during the year 1879:—Mr. N. L. Brathwaite, Senior Aidwaiter, Customs' department; the Reverend E. B. Bhose, Consulting Interpreter and Curate of St. Patrick's parish; the Reverend W. H. Brett, Rector of Holy Trinity parish; and Dr. J. S. Hackett, Surgeon to the Berbice Hospital and District Medical Officer. Mr. I. G. Austin, formerly Immigration Agent-General, drew pension from 4th November 1878, when he retired from the public service as Colonial Secretary of Hong Kong.

Population.

16. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1879 was 248,110 as compared with 239,263 on the same date in 1878.

17. These figures for 1879 include the following immigrants who arrived in the Colony during the year from—

Calcutta - - - -	6,055
Madeira - - - -	243
Barbados - - -	680
China - - - -	515
Giving a total of -	7,493

Add to this the number of births registered in the Colony in 1879, 9,211, from which has to be deducted the number of immigrants

BRITISH GUIANA.

who returned to India, 1,122, and 6,735 the number of deaths recorded during the year. The figures stand thus:—

Population on 31st December 1878 - -		239,263
Immigrants imported during 1879 - -		7,493
Births registered during 1879 - - -		9,211
Total - -		255,967
Deduct number of immigrants returned to India - - - -	1,122	
Deduct number of deaths registered during 1879 - - - -	6,735	
		7,857
Population on 31st December 1879 -		248,110

The population in 1879, therefore, as compared with that of 1878, shows an increase of 8,847, and with that of 1871 (193,491), of 54,619.

The next decennial census of the Colony will be taken in 1881, when much additional information will be obtained.

18. From the following table it will be seen with much satisfaction that the births during the year 1879 exceeded the deaths by 2,476, the largest excess which has been shown since registration began, and judging from the statistics of the Registrar-General's Department it might be inferred that this increase is found in the number of East Indian children born in the Colony.

Registration Statistics.

Date.	Total Births.	Total Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	Excess of Deaths over Births.	Remarks.
1869	6,644	6,334	310	—	See Registrar General's Report.
1870	7,103	6,203	900	—	
1871	7,182	7,324	—	142	
1872	7,032	7,354	—	322	
1873	7,558	7,245	313	—	
1874	8,317	7,567	750	—	
1875	7,825	8,034	—	209	
1876	7,833	8,270	—	437	
1877	7,585	8,677	—	1,092	
1878	7,960	7,282	678	—	
1879	9,211	6,735	2,476	—	

19. As bearing upon the health and population of the Colony the following table, showing the temperature and rainfall in Georgetown during the year 1879 may be of interest.

Temperature and Rainfall, Georgetown, British Guiana, 1879.

Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.	Hygrometer.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.	Hygrometer.	Barometer.	Rainfall during Month.
	6 a.m.	6 a.m.	6 a.m.	6 a.m.	12 Noon.	12 Noon.	12 Noon.	12 Noon.	24 Hours.	Inches.
January -	77·9	74·3	76·9	73·7	80·	75·2	79·2	75·	30·35	9·76
February -	75·3	75·5	77·9	73·3	80·8	76·	75·2	74·7	30·5	3·27
March -	80·2	77·4	76·5	74·5	83·6	77·9	78·8	75·	30·5	12·24
April -	79·07	75·3	79·03	75·09	80·09	75·5	79·9	75·02	30·15	6·85
May -	80·7	75·9	80·03	75·7	82·5	75·3	82·3	75·9	30·07	1·54
June -	79·8	74·5	76·9	74·8	84·2	75·6	82·8	76·5	30·08	7·22
July -	81·9	74·4	76·3	75·	85·	74·8	83·4	77·	30·07	14·54
August -	83·7	75·6	78·	75·7	87·3	75·8	84·7	80·6	30·07	4·81
September	84·	75·5	79·3	75·90	87·	76·	85·	77·	30·09	2·34
October -	83·2	75·2	79·6	75·1	87·5	75·8	85·2	75·8	29·88	·60
November	83·1	76·	79·3	75·4	86·7	70·2	84·5	76·	31·	3·00
December	80·	73·77	76·35	73·96	82·51	73·41	79·19	75·12	29·70	22·95
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	89·12

It cannot be said that in the condition of the people during the past year there has been any marked change exhibited, but forming a judgment from the increase in the number of depositors in the Government Savings Banks, the majority of whom is composed of East Indian immigrants and the increase in the amount of money deposited, it may be said that a prosperous condition is shown, and it may be the consequence of an additional savings bank in the large county of Essequibo, having been opened at Suddie in March 1879.

The number of depositors in the three banks on 31st December 1879 was 8,247, as compared with, in 1878, 7,733, showing an increase of 514.

The total amounts of deposits in the three banks for 1879 was 150,451*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, and for 1878, 148,608*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.*, showing an increase of 1,843*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*

By the Indian immigrants who returned to India in 1879 there was deposited the sum of 17,833*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* as compared with 16,852*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* in 1878; and the estimated value of jewellery carried away by them was in 1879 2,291*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and in 1878 3,500*l.*

Education.

21. The list of schools, which is added to the Blue Book this year, gives a total of 182, which received Government aid during the year. Of this number, 162 are primary schools; 11 are infant schools and 9 are mission schools; and the number inspected was 162, being one less than in 1878. It is to be remarked that the same number of schools in 1879 as in 1878, 99, satisfied the requirements of the regulations in regard to average attendance and per-centage of passes, and received the grants on the results of the inspection, and provisional grants were made to 65 primary schools. The results of examination of the town schools were on the whole satisfactory.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The average attendance for the twelve months previous to inspection was:—

In 1879 - - - -	10,192
As compared with in 1878 - -	9,186
	1,006

The total number of children in attendance on the days of inspection was:—

In 1879 - - - -	14,954
As compared with in 1878 - -	13,544
	1,410
And the number examined in 1879 was - - - -	8,632
As compared with in 1878 - -	8,244
	388

The same evil, irregularity of attendance, still continues notwithstanding the largely increased amount expended on compulsory education.

The number of teachers holding certificates of competency granted by the Board of Education and employed in 1879 was 97, and in 1878 was 72.

On the whole, slightly satisfactory results are shown, but these are not in proportion to the increased expenditure.

Trade.

22. The total value of the goods imported into the Colony from the United Kingdom, other British Colonies, and the United States and Foreign States:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1879 was - -	2,065,045	6	9
As compared with in 1878	2,150,714	5	9
Showing a decrease of -	85,668	19	0

And as compared with the imports of 1877, a decrease of 64,962*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* This falling off in the value of imports during the last two years is accounted for by the low market prices in 1878 of cotton and woollen goods principally, and in 1879 by the general depression in trade throughout England and her Colonies. The principal articles making up this total decrease are—flour, rice, machinery, bricks, manure, and hams; the decrease alone in the value of the quantities of flour and rice imported being 74,000*l.*

	£	s.	d.
23. The total value of exports during the year 1879 was - -	2,715,535	3	9
As compared with in 1878 - -	2,507,571	14	0½
Showing an increase of -	207,963	9	8½

Which is owing to the largely increased exportation of Colonial sugar and rum. In almost every other article of exportation, however, there is a decrease shown.

Shipping.

24. The number of vessels which entered the ports of the Colony during the year 1879 was 1,022. While in 1878 there were recorded 1,042; of these, 309 entered from the United Kingdom, while in the previous year there were 333, and the gross tonnage of the vessels entered in 1879 is shown as 270,409, compared with the figures 279,493 in 1878.

The number of vessels which cleared shows only a decrease of two, while the large decrease of nearly 10,000 tons is shown between the years 1879 and 1878, the figures being :—

In 1878 - - - -	275,488
And in 1879 - - -	265,924
	9,564

Agriculture.

25. Under the return of cultivated and uncultivated lands, produce, &c., there is shown that there were in 1879 75,972 acres of cultivated land in canes, and that 68,692 acres of cane were cut.

The empoldered land as far as the public roads extend, including the acreage under cane cultivation, 75,972, is estimated at 200,000 acres, and taking the counties separately :—

	Acres.
Demerara has - - -	33,662
Berbice - - - -	85,000
Essequibo - - - -	4,500
Total - -	123,162

The number of estates in cultivation in the Colony in 1879 is shown to be 275, specified thus :—

Sugar - - - - -	113
Plantain - - - -	46
Cattle farms - - - -	90
Cocoa and coffee - - -	16
Cocoa-nuts - - - -	10
Total - -	275

BRITISH GUIANA.

The Combined Court in its last session levied by tax ordinance an acreage tax in support of the immigration fund of two dollars, or 8*s.* 4*d.* on each acre of land under cane cultivation, and on each acre of empoldered land not under cane cultivation a tax of 1*d.*

26. The rate of expenditure during the year on account of wages for labour on sugar estates remains, as compared with 1878, and as far as reliable information can be obtained, unaltered, and the rate of wages for tradesmen and domestic servants in town and country has not varied.

Labourers on sugar estates have had, during the year 1879, as was the case in the year 1878, to work more days in the week to earn the same amount of money as was earned in 1877; and notwithstanding this the Creole labourer as a rule will not work for more than three days in the week.

The following statements compiled from the pay lists of eight estates show the average daily earnings of Indian immigrant labourers, free and indentured.

Free Labourers.

No.	Number of Men.	Average Number of Days at work each Man.	Average Amount earned per Man for the Year.	Average Amount earned per Man per Day.	Minimum Daily Amount earned by One Man.	Maximum Daily Amount earned by One Man.
			£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1	12	253	15 5 4½	0 1 2½	0 0 11	0 1 6
2	20	245	20 7 8	0 1 7½	0 1 4	0 2 8
3	15	184	16 14 2	0 1 10	0 1 5	0 2 3½
4	20	252	18 11 0½	0 1 5½	0 1 2½	0 1 10½
5	12	221	16 3 10	0 1 5½	0 1 3½	0 1 6½
6	10	274	18 14 5	0 1 4½	0 1 2	0 1 10½
7	20	182	15 4 3½	0 1 8	0 1 4½	0 2 1
8	8	228	19 11 9½	0 1 8½	0 1 7	0 2 0

Indentured Labourers.

No.	Number of Men.	Average Number of Days at Work each Man.	Average Amount earned per Man for the Year.	Average Amount earned per Man per Day.	Minimum Daily Amount earned by One Man.	Maximum Daily Amount earned by One Man.
			£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1	12	281	16 11 0	0 1 2½	0 0 9	0 1 6
2	20	231	13 15 2	0 1 2½	0 1 0	0 1 4
3	15	209	16 7 4	0 1 7	0 1 3½	0 1 9½
4	20	252	14 7 3	0 1 1½	0 0 9½	0 1 6
5	12	231	16 10 5	0 1 5½	0 1 0½	0 1 9½
6	10	261	18 6 6½	0 1 5	0 1 1½	0 1 8
7	20	188	10 10 10½	0 1 1½	0 1 0	0 1 3
8	8	231	17 10 9	0 1 6½	0 1 4½	0 1 8

27. The prices of the following articles of produce in 1879 were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Vacuum pan sugar -	0	19	0	to	1	6	0	per cwt.
Muscovado sugar -	0	11	5	„	0	18	9	„
Vacuum pan molasses -	0	0	5	„	0	0	6	per gallon.
Muscovado molasses -	0	0	7	„	0	1	0	„
Timber - -	0	0	7½	„	0	0	11	per cubic foot.
Wallaba shingles -	0	10	5	„	0	16	8	per 1,000 feet.
Cocoa-nuts - -	3	10	0	„	4	0	0	per 1,000.

The prices of rum and charcoal remain unaltered. There is a slight increase in the prices of vacuum pan and muscovado sugar, and a decrease in the price of Wallaba shingles.

There are increases shown in the average prices of wheaten flour per barrel, and horses, and decreases in the prices of horned cattle and mules.

28. Considerable improvements have been and are being made in the manufacture of sugar with the view to the better extraction and the clarification of the cane juice.

Under-drainage and steam ploughing have been tried on some estates with success, and are being extended, and the storage of water on estates and in the country districts against drought has received much attention.

29. In the return of manufactures, works, and fisheries there will be found the number of licensed fishing boats, also a list of the different kinds of fish which are caught and used for food. Unfortunately as an industrial pursuit, with the abundance of fish to be had, fishing is neglected. With the exception of the revival of the cultivation of coffee, some little capital being also now invested in the cultivation of cocoa, the whole of the labour and capital in the Colony is devoted to the cultivation of the sugar cane and to the manufacture of sugar; and hence the high rate of wages paid to such tradesmen as engineers, carpenters, masons and coopers.

Criminal Statistics.

30. From the following returns it cannot be inferred that the year 1879 shows a decided improvement in the moral condition of the people of the Colony; on the contrary, it must be admitted that crime is greatly on the increase. The number of offences, however, reported to the police or the magistrates during the year is only 11,659, as compared with 18,066 in 1878, showing a decrease in the number of offenders of 6,407, and the number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 27,985 as compared with 31,844 in 1878.

The number of summary convictions in 1879 was 13,929, as compared with 15,731 in 1878, showing a decrease of 1,802, and a still larger decrease of 4,201, as compared with the previous

BRITISH GUIANA.

year 1877. There has been a large increase in the number of convictions in the superior courts of 119, the numbers being, in 1879, 403, and in 1878, 284.

There has again been a decrease in the number of convictions under the immigration and labour laws, the figures in 1879 being 2,896, as compared with 3,051 in 1878.

The total number of persons tried in the superior courts in 1879 was 611, as compared with 438 in the previous year. Of the 611 persons tried in 1879, 403 were convicted, 154 were acquitted, and 54 cases fell through for want of prosecution.

There were 26 trials for murder in 1879, as compared with 6 only in 1878. Of these, which are chiefly cases of wife murder by Coolies, 14 ended in conviction, 9 were acquitted, and 3 fell through for want of prosecution.

Gaols and Prisons.

31. The total number of prisoners committed to the several prisons of the Colony in 1879 was 7,921, as compared with 8,087 in 1878, showing a satisfactory decrease, which was the case also in 1877 and 1876.

No prisoners are now committed to the district prisons of "Fellowship," "Mahaica," and "Best," but these prisons are utilised to relieve the Georgetown prison from being overcrowded. The report by the superintendent of the penal settlement as regards the conduct, health, and discipline among the prisoners is very satisfactory, and their labour earnings for the year was 5,226*l.* 12*s.*, as compared with 5,056*l.* 13*s.* in 1878.

There were at the Penal Settlement on the 31st December 1879 257 convicts, 47 ordinary prisoners, and 3 local prisoners; total, 307, as compared with 286 in 1878.

There remained in the Georgetown Prison on 31st December 1879—

Male prisoners - - -	239
Female do. - - -	34
Immigrants, male - - -	15
do. female - - -	2
Prisoners awaiting trial - -	35
And civil prisoners - - -	4
Total - - -	329

At the New Amsterdam Prison on the same date there were—

Male prisoners - - -	36
Female do. - - -	7
And immigrant do. - - -	16
Total - - -	59

And in the Sudder Prison there were, on 31st December 1879—

Male prisoners - - -	51
Female do. - - -	3
Immigrant do. - - -	7
Total - - -	61

Hospitals and Asylums.

32. The total number of patients remaining in the public hospital of Demerara and Essequibo at the beginning of the year 1879, including the seamen's ward, was 372, as compared with 325 at the same date in 1878. The total number admitted during the year was 6,353, as compared with 5,827 in 1878; and the average daily number of in-patients was 441, as compared with 401 in 1878.

The total number of deaths was 718, and in 1878 659, showing a larger number of deaths; but, as will be observed above, there was a considerable increase in the number of admissions during 1879. Of the deaths, 84 cases were taken to the hospital in a moribund condition, and deducting these the mortality was at the rate of 99 per 1,000, as compared with 98 per 1,000 in 1878.

33. The returns of the Colonial Hospital, Berbice, give a total number of patients in hospital at the beginning of the year 1879 of 73, as compared with 65 at the same date in 1878. The number of the admissions during the year was 1,281, as compared with 1,231 in the previous year; and the daily average in hospital during the year was 100, as compared with 83 in the previous year. The number of deaths, however, shows a decrease of 39, as compared with the number in 1878, the figures being 181 and 220. Of the number of deaths, there were 45 moribund cases on admission, and 2 were stillborn; and deducting these, the mortality was at the rate of 104 per 1,000, while in 1878 it was at the rate of 121 per 1,000.

34. In the public Lunatic Asylum the total number of admissions during the year 1879 was 91, as compared with 96 in the year 1878, and 110 in 1877. There were 266 patients in the asylum at the commencement of the year, the number cured during the year 12, and the number who died 39; thus leaving 306 persons in the asylum at the close of the year.

35. In the General Leper Asylum at Mahaica it will be seen from the return that there were remaining in the asylum at the commencement of the year 206 patients, and the number of admissions was 42, giving a total of 248, but deducting 13 male and 47 female inmates (60) who were removed, 31 who absconded, 5 who were expelled, and 28 who died, together 124, there remained at the close of the year 124 inmates, all males.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The medical officer of the asylum reports its continued healthiness, and, notwithstanding an unfortunate riot which occurred on the 28th July 1879, caused by the carrying out of an order to to keep the sexes apart, the comparative improvement of that institution. The female inmates are temporarily accommodated in the Colonial Hospital and in the Almshouse, Georgetown, pending the erection of a temporary asylum for them in the Mahaica district.

36. There were in the Leper Asylum on Kaow Island, under the charge of the medical officer of the Penal Settlement, 58 inmates, of whom 36 are Coolies and 4 Chinese. This gives a total of 232 lepers (male and female) under Government care at the close of last year, as compared with 254 on the same date in the previous year.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

37. No addition has been made to the list of these institutions, unless indeed there may be included the Government school and reformatory for youthful male offenders at Onderneeming, the total cost of which for eight months was 868*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* The total cost of the charitable institutions of the Colony supported from the general revenue was, exclusive of the Government school at Onderneeming, 42,320*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.* during the year 1879, as compared with 40,761*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* during the previous year.

38. The number of members, &c. of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society was 399 on the 31st December 1879, as compared with 369 in the previous year.

The Berbice Reading Society had 60 members as compared with 68 in the previous year, and the Athenæum Room in Georgetown was re-opened with 103 subscribers.

(Signed) GEO. MELVILLE,
Assistant Government Secretary.

10th July 1880.

BAHAMAS.

No. 8.

Governor ROBINSON, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Government House, Nassau,
February 10, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report upon the Blue Book for 1879, which will be forwarded to you as soon as it is completed. There is every probability that it will be rather later than usual this year in consequence of great pressure of work in the Revenue Department.

Taxes and Finance.

2. No fresh taxation was imposed in 1879.

3. The revenue collected in the year was larger than the amount yielded in any year since 1867, and between 7,000*l.* and 8,000*l.* larger than in 1875, 1876, and 1877. This state of things is very satisfactory when it is remembered that a few years ago there was a heavy annually recurring deficit. Taxation was, of course, necessary to bring about such a happy result; but its burden has been cheerfully borne, and though the tariff might in some respects be amended with advantage, it does not seem to press very onerously on any class in the community. I think I am justified in asserting that at length the Colony is freed from those financial difficulties in which it was involved during the administration of my immediate predecessors, and which continued during the first three years of my Government. I trust, however, that the tariff will be allowed to remain untouched for a further term of two or three years, as, though a large revenue, much in excess of that of former years, has been gathered in, it would be premature to anticipate that the same excess will be maintained during the year 1880, and therefore unwise to make any appreciable reductions at the present moment. In addition to this, many public works of great utility are in arrear, and repairs and improvements are required in the system of drainage, and in some of the public buildings, which can no longer with safety be deferred.

4. The revenue for 1879 was 44,853*l.* The expenditure was 40,944*l.* In this latter amount, however, is included a sum of 2,088*l.* for the redemption of debentures, which was ordered by the Government on the 31st December under the provisions of a local Act empowering appropriation for that purpose. The actual surplus on the year's transactions amounted therefore to 5,997*l.*, a result which I need hardly say is as gratifying to me as it was unexpected at the commencement of the year.

BAHAMAS.

Public Debt.

5. At the beginning of 1879 the public debt amounted to 61,000*l.* Of this 42,311*l.* bore 6 per cent. interest, the rest being held at from 5 to 5¾ per cent. At present the debt is 58,873*l.*, and I intend to propose to the Legislature that it shall be consolidated and the debentures re-issued at a uniform rate of 5 per cent. Though a convenient investment, I am of opinion that, in the interests of the majority, the debt ought to be reduced to say 30,000*l.* as rapidly as possible, and, if the finances continue in a flourishing condition, the interest should be further reduced to 4 per cent. I hope the House of Assembly will make specific provision for the annual redemption of some of the debentures, and thus place the public credit on a firm and solid basis.

Imports and Exports.

6. The value of imports and exports was respectively 164,746*l.* and 137,129*l.* The value of native produce exported was 105,966*l.* These returns, especially the latter, are very encouraging, as will be seen from a perusal of them in detail. The apparent diminution of the imports is to be ascribed to the few wrecked cargoes brought within the Colony. The regular imports were considerably above the average.

TOTAL VALUE of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of the BAHAMAS from and to each Country in the Year 1879.

Countries.	Imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.		Total.
		Produce of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Produce.	
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	41,456	34,632	10,793	45,425
British North America - -	3	3,307	157	3,464
Bermuda - - - -	84	—	—	—
British Guiana - - -	2	—	—	—
British Honduras - - -	—	—	2,891	2,891
British West Indies - -	4,275	963	700	1,663
United States of America -	99,886	66,651	12,215	78,866
France - - - - -	—	—	1,390	1,390
Colonies of Spain - -	1,182	114	546	660
Danish West Indies - -	142	—	—	—
Portuguese Possessions - -	106	—	—	—
French West Indies - -	24	—	—	—
Central America - - -	—	48	—	48
New Granada - - -	—	21	22	43
Brazil - - -	—	—	1,871	1,871
Hayti - - - -	685	230	578	808
San Domingo - - -	173	—	—	—
From Vessels :—				
In distress - - -	10,303	—	—	—
Wrecked - - -	6,376	—	—	—
Derelict - - -	49	—	—	—
	164,746	105,966	31,163	137,129

RETURN showing the ARTICLES of BAHAMA PRODUCE exported during the past Seven Years ending 31st December 1879, and the value thereof.

Article.	Value.						
	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ambergris	—	—	10	—	11	1,014	737
Barks, viz.:—							
Canella Alba, Cascarilla	637	686	377	534	275	42 291	184 919
Beans and peas	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Boats	—	—	—	—	34	—	8
Bones	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Castor oil seed	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cigarettes	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cigars	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Coal	—	—	—	—	—	—	60
Coral	—	—	—	—	2	14	18
Corn	—	—	—	—	1	11	—
Cotton	1,084	791	659	500	544	1,144	1,024
Cow horns and hoofs	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Crabs	21	11	6	14	13	7	7
Donkeys	—	—	38	—	1	—	—
Fish, fresh	—	—	—	—	100	—	—
Fruit and vegetables, fresh:—							
Avocado pears	—	—	—	—	—	13	27
Bananas	346	673	388	278	653	827	1,235
Cocoanuts	—	—	—	—	25	60	93
Ginger	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Grape fruit	—	—	—	—	—	169	371
Lemons	—	—	—	—	—	6	3
Limes	—	—	—	—	—	97	42
Mangoes	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Mammees	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Onions	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Oranges, China, Oranges, Seville	3,822	5,474	3,960	4,199	4,370	4,768	7,035 6
Pine-apples	38,767	48,534	43,855	38,904	32,015	29,301	31,430
Plantains	—	—	—	—	—	—	53
Potatoes, Irish	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
Potatoes, sweet	—	—	—	—	27	116	1
Pumpkins	—	—	—	—	—	8	8
Sapodillas	—	—	—	—	—	14	14
Shaddocks	234	477	363	31	384	39	69
Sour sops	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sugar canes	—	—	—	—	—	80	37
Tamarinds	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Tomatoes	—	—	—	—	8	409	578
Turnips	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Water-melons	—	—	—	—	—	38	33
Yams	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
Other fruit	433	151	45	344	78	—	73
Furniture	—	—	—	—	14	—	—
Goats	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Guano or cave earth	319	940	2,096	956	380	8,192	780
Hats, straw	26	—	3	2	6	—	1
Hides, raw	191	—	127	149	150	140	167
Horses	64	104	85	10	13	71	100
India-rubber	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
Junk, old	176	200	60	231	166	196	230
Lemon juice	—	—	—	—	—	6	3

Article.	Value.						
	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lime	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Limestone	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	8	4	81
Natural history specimens	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Personal effects	12	—	103	646	—	—	5
Pine slips	—	—	—	—	190	47	31
Plants, banana	—	—	—	—	21	—	1
Plants, assorted	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Poultry	11	11	51	5	2	17	86
Preserved fruits, viz.:—							
Bananas	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Grapes	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Guavas	—	—	—	—	—	82	54
Pine apples	14,730	1,051	—	1,535	8,316	7,709	3,446
Preserves	21	—	1	65	11	19	8
Rags, old	—	—	—	—	—	39	54
Salt	11,080	6,184	4,946	4,639	6,486	5,280	9,697
Sea beans and nickers	—	—	—	—	—	29	11
Sea fans and feathers	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
Sheep	—	—	—	4	—	—	20
Shells, conch	181	487	611	608	458	756	2,014
Shells, small	5	49	—	25	104	441	144
Shell-work	55	56	49	184	19	15	17
Spars	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Spice	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Sponge	32,938	15,550	15,586	17,530	18,508	24,736	33,265
Squills	—	4	—	—	—	—	7
Starch	—	—	—	—	25	14	—
Swine	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Turtle	77	34	19	50	10	105	72
Turtle-shell	3,122	3,021	3,017	4,143	3,024	2,985	3,009
Vegetables	49	11	—	34	76	—	—
Wax	7	7	80	97	29	15	89
Wood	2,860	1,845	3,036	5,158	5,716	4,541	8,420
	111,268	86,351	79,571	80,875	82,274	93,962	105,966

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the VALUE of IMPORTS for the Years 1878 and 1879.

Articles.	1878.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Alcohol	63	105	42	—
Ale and porter in bottles	250	493	243	—
Ale and porter in wood	1,011	1,293	282	—
Apples	69	107	38	—
Bananas	—	2	2	—
Beans and peas	507	163	—	344
Biscuit and bread, common	465	485	20	—
Biscuit and bread, fancy	296	245	—	51
Boats	52	19	—	33
Brandy	737	831	94	—
Brass, old	6	—	—	6

Articles.	1878.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Butter	3,567	3,271	—	296
Cabbages	25	20	—	5
Calves	12	10	—	2
Candles, sperm, &c.	690	640	—	50
Candles, tallow	250	251	1	—
Cattle	1,661	1,290	—	371
Cheese	455	464	9	—
Cigarettes	—	28	28	—
Cigars	262	477	215	—
Coal	1,005	86	—	919
Cocoa	135	14	—	121
Cocoa-nuts	170	43	—	127
Coffee	7,640	3,247	—	4,393
Copper, yellow metal, &c.	39	452	413	—
Copper, yellow metal, &c., old	—	26	26	—
Corn	645	774	129	—
Corn meal and hominy	6,560	8,054	1,494	—
Currants, figs, and raisins	90	119	29	—
Donkey	—	30	30	—
Dogs	10	22	12	—
Fish, dried	532	332	—	200
Fish, pickled	137	170	33	—
Flour, rye	5	8	3	—
Flour, wheat	17,355	21,077	3,722	—
Gin, whiskey, and other spirits	882	1,079	197	—
Guano	174	100	—	74
Gunpowder	27	74	47	—
Hay	119	181	62	—
Hides, raw	14	—	—	14
Honey and syrup	34	14	—	20
Hoops and shooks	671	62	—	609
Horses	182	341	159	—
Hulks and materials of vessels	898	1,606	708	—
Ice	350	280	—	70
Iron, old	2	8	6	—
Lard	2,960	1,617	—	1,343
Locomotive	400	—	—	400
Lumber	1,984	2,739	755	—
Meat, fresh	757	555	—	202
Meat, salted	6,131	5,821	—	310
Molasses	4,467	73	—	4,394
Mules	150	107	—	43
Nails of iron	715	441	—	274
Oakum	61	87	26	—
Oats and bran	195	294	99	—
Oils, linseed, &c., paying $7\frac{1}{2}d.$	1,933	2,650	717	—
Oils, olive, &c., paying 1*s.*	68	26	—	42
Palm grease	6	—	—	6
Pears	—	1	1	—
Philosophical instruments	42	19	—	23
Pitch, tar, and rosin	851	109	—	742
Plantains	—	26	26	—
Plants	1	2	1	—
Potatoes, onions, and other vegetables	944	549	—	395
Poultry	173	—	—	173
Printed books	298	884	586	—
Prunes	10	5	—	5
Rice	3,972	4,701	729	—
Rum, 18 to 24	4,576	2,981	—	1,595
Rum, weaker than 24	87	220	133	—
Salt mills	—	100	100	—
Seeds for planting	37	20	—	17
Sheep	—	62	62	—

Articles.	1878.	1879.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Shingles, cypress	823	773	—	50
Shingles, not cypress	70	55	—	15
Soap, common	1,230	1,254	24	—
Specie	4,625	4,100	—	525
Sponge	3,928	345	—	3,583
Steam condenser	—	120	120	—
Sugar, refined	2,259	1,869	—	390
Sugar, unrefined	27,109	5,418	—	21,691
Sugar, white clayed	27	5	—	22
Sugar boilers, &c.	433	176	—	257
Swine	32	26	—	6
Tallow	9	19	10	—
Tea	403	557	154	—
Tobacco, manufactured	3,262	3,013	—	249
Tobacco, unmanufactured	561	592	31	—
Tops	37	—	—	37
Turpentine, spirits of	29	35	6	—
Turtle	79	24	—	55
Turtle-shell	573	195	—	378
Wines	1,161	1,325	164	—
Woods, viz.:—				
Fustic	—	900	900	—
Logwood	1,120	778	—	342
Mahogany	145	306	161	—
Ad valorem, @ 20*l.* per centum	59,869	69,695	9,826	—
Ad valorem, @ 25*l.* per centum	4,578	684	—	3,894
	191,234	164,746	22,675	49,163

7. Annexed is also a return showing the revenue derived from the principal articles of consumption, the duty contributed per head, estimating the population at 45,000, being about 3*s.* 1*d.* per annum.

Year.	Article.						
	Butter.	Corn Meal and Hominy.	Fish, salted.	Flour.	Lard.	Meat, salted.	Rice.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1874	474	439	62	3,644	332	974	663
1875	374	452	54	3,828	345	943	597
1876	606	750	49	4,577	245	787	636
1877	535	753	58	3,536	398	924	580
1878	522	909	50	4,207	424	1,062	680
5	2,611	3,303	273	19,792	1,744	4,690	3,156
Average	522	661	55	3,958	349	938	631

8. The following return shows the number of wrecked and distressed vessels with the value of their cargoes for the past five years:—

	1875.		1876.		1877.		1878.		1879.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
Wrecks -	11	23,846	12	11,658	6	13,975	15	16,535	12	6,376
Distress -	11	3,595	7	13,489	7	7,479	30	36,120	16	10,303

Public Health and Temperature.

9. In September there was a sudden outbreak of malarial hemorrhagic fever, which for some time continued in a sporadic form. With a few exceptions it has been confined to children. The cases were, perhaps, 100, and there were 18 deaths in 14 weeks. The registers for New Providence give 80 as the fatal number of fevers. The Board of Health was energetic in its sanitary operations, and a large sum of money will be required this year to improve the drainage throughout the city, and especially in the eastern district.

10. In the latter part of the year a few cases of scarlatina showed themselves, having been introduced from the United States. Though severe, there were no fatal cases.

11. Vaccination, though the law is compulsory, was considerably neglected in some of the out-islands, and measures have been taken to insist on a compliance with the provisions of that law.

12. The general returns for the Colony of births and deaths are as follows:—

BIRTHS.

	March.	June.	September.	December.	Total.
New Providence -	89	88	106	84	367
Out-islands - -	342	274	316	314*	1,246
	431	362	422	398	1,613

DEATHS.

	March.	June.	September.	December.	Total.
New Providence -	59	90	103	93	345
Out-islands - -	127	124	119	143*	513
	186	214	222	236	858

Taking the population at 45,000, the ratio of births is 36·61 per 1,000, and of deaths 19·11. The mortality for 1878 was 760.

* Assumed.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE for 1879.

—	Thermometer.				Rainfall.			
	Max. in Shade at 9 a.m.	Min. in Shade at 9 a.m.	Max. in Sun (24 hours).	Mean at 3 p.m.	Rain-fall.	No. of Rainy Days.	Max. Fall in 24 hours.	Date.
					inches.			
January - - -	77·0	61·0	145·0	73·6	0·92	6	0·41	23
February - - -	76·5	64·2	148·0	74·4	1·29	8	0·95	11
March - - -	78·5	69·5	153·5	75·6	2·84	6	2·45	14
April - - - -	82·8	73·5	154·0	78·8	0·42	5	0·20	3
May - - - -	83·8	70·5	155·5	80·5	3·85	13	0·90	9
June - - - -	85·5	74·0	155·0	82·4	12·77	14	5·37	26
July - - - -	88·0	71·2	157·0	85·3	7·43	18	1·80	30
August - - -	88·5	77·0	157·0	86·4	9·85	13	3·11	16
September - - -	87·5	70·2	153·5	84·6	8·02	20	2·27	12
October - - -	85·0	74·5	153·0	81·9	6·50	18½	1·60	25
November - - -	81·5	66·5	148·0	77·2	7·98	6	7·41	7
December - - -	78·2	67·0	150·5	76·6	1·60	11	0·95	1
Sums - -	992·8	839·1	1830·0	957·3	63·47	138½	27·42	—
Means - -	82·7	69·9	152·5	79·8	5·29	11	2·28	—

13. The temperature, as shown in the foregoing meteorological return, was not excessive. The rainfall was 62 inches. In 1878 it was 65 inches. The maximum rainfall in 24 hours was 7·41 inches on the 7th November.

Salt Trade.

14. A special mission was despatched by me in the beginning of the year for the arrangement of salt pond matters, and it was successful in settling definitely the long standing and intricate salt pond accounts. All the lessees, with three exceptions, have given promissory notes for the balances of the purchase money of their freeholds under the regulations of the 8th May 1876, amounting to 930*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* All but one of the proprietors at Inagua have paid up their notes, and those at Rum Cay will be looked after when their notes become due in March next.

15. The conversion of these tenures into freehold, which for years has been a source of trouble and difficulty to the Colonial Office, and upon the subject of which I ventured to differ in opinion from the late Emigration Commissioners, may at last be considered as satisfactorily effected.

16. The salt season of 1879 cannot be said to have been a failure, for although the quantity raked, owing to the heavy fall of rain through the summer, did not amount to more than one-third of the usual crop, and the first shipments made to the United States were sold at a loss, the high prices obtained at the close of the season compensated in some measure for the low yield.

17. The salt crop was a failure at all the other salt-producing islands in the West Indies. Salt commanded a very good price in the markets of the United States and the British Provinces, owing to the absence from them of any Mediterranean salt. At Inagua the salt sold at from 8*d.* to 1*s.* per bushel.

18. The quantity raked and shipped was as follows :—

	Bushels.
Inagua - - - -	325,906
Ragged Island - - -	70,522
Rum Cay - - - -	5,994
Long Island - - -	1,960
Long Cay - - - -	1,240
Exuma - - - -	100
Total shipped - -	405,722

19. The closing prices for salt last year have stimulated proprietors to make every effort to cleanse their pans thoroughly in the hope of securing a large crop next season. I am informed that the pickle in the salina at Inagua has been improving, and promises to yield a better quality of salt than has been raked there for three or four years past. I am glad to learn this, as there has been considerable difference of opinion amongst the rakers as to the best method of improving the pickle. Some desired to let in sea water, while others wished to exclude it. An appeal was made to me on the subject, and I could only reply that whilst I was of opinion that this matter could probably be best settled on the spot by mutual concession, I would instruct the Resident Justice to see that the wishes of the majority in interest as well as number should be respected.

20. The heavy duty imposed on salt in the United States is a serious drawback to the prosperity of the salt-producing islands, and I have frequently referred to its disastrous effects. The proprietors have been encouraged from time to time to hope for, at least, a modification of the American tariff, but from past and present indications in Congress their expectations do not seem likely to be realized.

Sponge Trade.

21. Various causes combined to make the past year a most favourable one to those engaged in this branch of business. A larger number of buyers than usual appeared in the market, and there was no period when it could be said that prices had a downward tendency. The very high prices offered at the beginning of the year were fully sustained to its end. This strong competition served to stimulate those actually employed in the fisheries to greater exertion, and induced a great many others to enter the business. Absence of heavy gales, and the mild weather that generally prevailed, contributed in a great measure to favour the efforts of the fishermen to meet this increased demand. The successful results of last year's fishery are also somewhat owing to the rest the sponge beds had whilst the privilege of fishing on the coast of Cuba was accorded to the Bahamian spongers. Licenses to fish on this coast were again issued in 1879 to several vessels, but shortly after their arrival at the sponging grounds

BAHAMAS.

they were boarded by Spanish gun-boats and ordered to leave; some of them returned to port with insufficient sponge to pay the cost of their outfits.

22. The universal and increasing demand for sponges and the unremitting drain to which all the best "fisheries" are subjected, has led to a partial dearth in the supply of these useful articles in the European markets; but art has in this, as in many similar cases, stepped in to restore the balance. It is only within the last few years that the real nature of the sponge has been recognised. In its natural state it is a disagreeable and most repulsive looking object, the soft fibrous mass with which every one is so familiar being hidden beneath, and its interstices filled up by a slimy gelatinous substance which rapidly putrifies, and adds tenfold to its generally unpleasant nature. The tenacity with which these objects affix themselves to rocks and stones suggested the idea that they were a species of vegetable, though they really belong to the animal kingdom, and are allied to the anemones and other zoophites, with the beautiful appearance of many of which the public aquaria have helped to make us acquainted. A sponge, it has been said, is nothing more than an animated stomach, which, though the very lowest of all forms of animal life, is endowed with more reason than the stomachs of mankind inasmuch as it knows what is good and what is bad for it, and rejects the latter while imbibing only the former. The gelatinous substance which forms the actual body of the sponge being beaten and washed out of it, the fibrous skeleton is left in the state in which it is sold in the market. The "Colonies and India" gives publicity to a fact which is likely to diminish the dangers attending the operations of sponging, and at the same time to increase the available supply of sponges. It appears that some German zoologists have made the discovery that small pieces carefully cut from live sponges, and attached to boards or stones, and sunk in suitable localities, will grow in a few months into large sponges. This fact is of the utmost importance to sponge-growing Colonies. The same paper suggests that a close time should be enacted in the Bahamas and other localities where sponges are diminishing in numbers, but, with or without such a law, the possibility of growing sponges at will and increasing their numbers indefinitely in the manner indicated by these German naturalists should soon set at rest any doubts as to a falling off in the supply of these invaluable articles.

23. The Austrian Government is now carrying out on the coast of Dalmatia the system recommended by Dr. Oscar Schmidt, Professor of Zoology at the University of Grätz, and I should be much obliged if through the Foreign Office you would obtain for me full information and instructions as to this process. There is no reason why the same system could not be adopted here, and a new branch of industry be established which in a short time would add largely to the exports of the Colony. It is a question which it would be worth while to solve, whether the finer sponges of the Mediterranean could not be brought into the waters of the

Bahamas and propagated by these artificial means, and I should be glad if the advice of Dr. Hooker could be procured on this point.

24. The quality and value of sponge exported in 1878 and 1879 are shown below :—

	1878.		1879.	
	lbs.	Value. £	lbs.	Value. £
Boat - - -	19,165	686	19,817	737
Glove - - -	17,292	521	10,866	369
Grass - - -	174,228	2,003	132,491	2,987
Hardhead - -	37,530	1,560	36,538	1,704
Mixed - - -	4,320	149	9,082	271
Reef - - -	33,840	2,934	42,334	3,682
Refuse - - -	14,322	210	1,972	24
Velvet - - -	62,708	5,277	101,184	8,843
Wool - - -	86,393	10,406	102,862	13,258
Yellow - - -	35,787	990	41,301	1,410
	485,585		504,447	
	cwt. 4,335	24,736	cwt. 4,504	33,285

Pine-apple Trade.

25. The value of pine-apples shipped in 1879 was 31,430*l.* In 1878 it was 29,301*l.* The crop was somewhat smaller than that of the year previous, but the quality was better, which was attributable to the mild winter and unusually dry weather in the early part of 1879. A dry season is considered to be more favourable to the growth of the pine-apple than a wet one. The shipments to the United States were satisfactory. In consequence of better quality better prices were obtained. The pines kept remarkably well, so that on the whole shippers did rather better than they have recently done. The quantity shipped to London was about the same as usual, but prices did not rule as high as in 1878, owing probably to the general depression in trade. It is asserted, though I am unable to decide with what truth, that if there had not been a complete failure in the fruit crop in England, a serious loss would have been sustained on pine-apples.

26. In the canning business there was a marked decline. Not more than two-thirds of the quantity canned in 1877–8 were canned last year. The agents for this business in America reported unfavourably of that shipped in 1878. Consequently there was but a very limited demand, and prices were not remunerative. The stock of 1878 which was sent to Baltimore has not yet been disposed of, and as there is but little demand in the London market for "preserved pine-apples," there is no inducement, but the reverse, for increased operations in this direction.

27. It is the opinion of persons of experience that the cultivation of pine-apples in the Bahamas has seen its best days.

BAHAMAS.

Nearly all the land adapted for the growth of this fruit at Harbour Island, Abaco, Eleuthera and San Salvador is more or less exhausted. It is true that growers are resorting to Long Island for land, and that there is still room for extended cultivation in the west end of New Providence, but I anticipate a gradual decrease, and that the total yield in a few years' time will not be more than half it is now. Fortunately there are many other industries capable of indefinite extension, such as the cultivation of cane, cocoa-nut, bananas, oranges, and limes. The last-named notwithstanding the constant demand for lime juice and the encouraging example of Montserrat, receives no attention here whatever, which is to be regretted.

Oranges, Grape Fruit, and Shaddock.

28. There is a very marked increase in the quantity of oranges, grape fruit, and shaddock exported in 1879 over that of 1878. This is due to the large crop of the season just past, and it is a fact worth noting that the increase is due mainly to extended cultivation, so far as the orange is concerned, and not to any very good season for the growth of the fruit. On the Island of New Providence, especially, the cultivation and growth of oranges is becoming a very important branch of our Colonial industries. New orchards are being constantly set out, and present ones enlarged, so that in the course of time, if the demand in the United States (the only market) keeps pace with the production, the export of oranges may shortly be expected to reach at least 10,000,000 in number per annum.

29. The quantity stated in the returns for 1879, does not represent the entire crop of the past season, although it shows a large increase upon 1878. The crop for the season of 1878 was gathered within that year. By the end of December all the oranges were shipped. This was not the case with respect to the season of 1879, for since the end of the year not less than 1,000,000 oranges, and probably more, have been gathered and exported, making, with allowance for decay made by exporters when clearing their shipments at the several custom houses in the Colony, a total of at least 7,000,000 for the crop of 1879, an enormous increase upon that of 1878, and one that would have been still larger had not the trees suffered from a partial drought early in the year.

30. There is an increase in the quantity of grape fruit and shaddock exported in 1879 over that of 1878. But the demand abroad is not at all such as to encourage exporters, who find it difficult to avoid losses on their shipments. The probability is that the production will decline in consequence of growers giving more attention to the raising of oranges.

Woods.

31. The export of woods generally in 1879 was largely in excess of that in 1878. In the case of certain woods sent to the

United Kingdom the increase is mainly attributed to the revival in trade which commenced in the last half of 1879, and to supplies getting scant in consequence of low prices and slow demand in the English markets.

Satin Wood (shipped exclusively to England), for instance, is set down at 5,037 pieces in 1878, against 18,783 pieces in 1879. Up to the month of May scarcely any satin wood was exported, but a few pieces where then shipped, and the export gradually increased during the remainder of the year, making the large excess of over 13,000 pieces for 1879.

Ebony, however, shows a decline, occasioned by the colour of the dye (it being a dye wood) having gone out of fashion.

Sabica was exported in smaller quantity in 1879 by 66 tons, against 167 tons in 1878. This wood is mainly used for manufacturing purposes in connexion with cotton spinning, and the demand for it was, of course, affected by the state of trade in the districts where cotton manufactures are carried on. The export, however, has never at any time been large, and the demand at best has always been precarious.

Logwood. The export of logwood is largely in excess of that of 1878. The native logwood is now exclusively sent to the United States, where it has established a fair reputation for the quality of its dye. Dye woods in the United States have generally maintained fair prices, and the markets of that country are preferred, as they are so much nearer than those of the United Kingdom, and the cost of transportation with other expenses, consequently, is very much less. The increase in 1879 is very large (2,015 tons, value 5,735*l.*, in 1879, against 1,037 tons, value 1,671*l.*, in 1878). This may be attributed almost entirely to the rise in value here consequent upon increased competition, which had the effect of stimulating those engaged in cutting logwood to bring larger quantities into market.

Braziletto also shows a larger export, which may be set down to a slightly better demand during the past year in the United States. The probability is that in nearly all of the native woods the increased export will be maintained during the present year.

Bark.

32. The export of both Cascarilla and Canella Alba was in excess of that in 1878, the quantities and values being: 1879, Cascarilla, 190,607 lbs., 919*l.*; Canella Alba, 37,516 lbs., 184*l.*; against 1878, Cascarilla, 63,255 lbs., 291*l.*, and Canella Alba, 9,252 lbs., 42*l.* The shipments in 1879, however, were largely in excess of the demand, and prices fell so low that heavy losses resulted to shippers. This will probably restrict the shipments during the current year.

Crown Lands.

33. There were in 1879 six auction sales of Crown land, at which 45 country and 87 town and suburban lots were sold, comprising 1,753 acres, of the value of 558*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* 61 country and 7 town and suburban lots were also allotted to the occupiers

BAHAMAS.

at an upset value of 207*l.* 7*s.* The receipts for the year may be thus apportioned: 205*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* on account of sales in 1879; 40*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* on account of unsold allotments, and 459*l.* on account of arrears and payments by detected squatters.

34. 222 country and 86 town and suburban lots of 2,259 acres were surveyed at an expense of 278*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, including a moiety of the expense of a special mission for the arrangement of salt pond matters. 109 grants for 1,465 acres of the value of 603*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* were made during the year.

35. A comparative statement of Crown Fund Revenue and Expenditure is annexed:—

		1878.	1879.
Revenue and Expenditure.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Crown Fund Revenue to 31st December.		1,481 . 8	1,198 10 10
Crown Fund Expenditure to 31st December.		1,249 0 1	1,360 12 6
Crown Land Sales, Receipts and Surveys.			
Quantity sold by auction	Number of allotments -	29 country and 31 town and suburban.	45 country and 87 town and suburban.
	Acreage - -	650	1,570
	Value - - -	£241 19 11	£558 14 3
Quantity sold at upset price	Number of allotments -	91 country and 15 town.	61 country and 7 town and suburban.
	Acreage - -	1,100	760
	Value - - -	£363 15 5	£207 7 0
Receipts	On account of sales in each year.	£204 16 9	£205 16 8
	Arrears and squatters -	£331 19 6	£458 19 11
	On account of unsold allotments.	£138 18 6	£40 12 10
Surveys -	Number of allotments -	191 country and 77 town and suburban.	222 country and 56 town and suburban.
	Acreage - -	2,950	2,259
	Expenditure during the year.	£237 14 6	£278 13 10
Grants -	Number of grants made	Land 143	—
	Acreage - -	1,054 acres	—
	Number of grants made-	Salt Pond—8	—
	Acreage - -	34a. 1r. 10p.	—

Mail Service.

36. The mail service is performed at a cost of 5,700*l.* a year by steamers of the Mallory line, Mr. R. W. Parsons, of New York, being the contractor. The steamers run monthly in the summer, and during the present season there is to be weekly communication with New York by way of ports in South Carolina and Florida.

37. At present the service has not been as regular as could have been desired, but the contractor appears most anxious to

"build up a good business" here, and I hope he may succeed, as frequent and regular communication is most essential to the welfare of the Colony.

38. The Imperial Government assists the Colonial Treasury to the extent of 1,000*l.* a year, and I should much deprecate the withdrawal of this aid, as there are many important Imperial interests in the Bahamas.

Post Office.

39. The revenue of the Post Office for the year ending 31st December 1879 was 1,717*l.* 5*s.* 1¼*d.*, and the net amount paid into the public treasury was 1,532*l.* In 1878 the amounts were respectively 1,731*l.* 17*s.* 8½*d.* and 1,569*l.*

40. The amount received from the Imperial Government for official correspondence was smaller than usual.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In 1877 it was -	445	0	5½
„ 1878 „ -	385	2	4½
„ 1879 „ -	322	11	9½

41. There was also a decrease in the amount of commissions received on money orders sent to the United Kingdom:

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1877 -	7,548	1	2	301	18	5
1878 -	530	6	2	21	4	2½
1879 -	343	6	5	13	4	6½

42. A decrease occurred, too, in the amount of money orders paid in the Colony:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1877 -	142	5	0	1	8	5
1878 -	189	3	11	1	17	9¾
1879 -	56	3	5	0	11	2¾

43. The amount received from other sources was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1877 -	487	6	1
1878 -	557	3	11
1879 -	582	1	7½

44. The receipts from the sale of postage stamps in Nassau was 798*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

45. Letters are now registered to nearly all parts of the world:

	d.
To the United Kingdom -	2
To countries in transit through the United Kingdom -	4
To the West Indies -	6
To the United States -	2 and 10 cents in American postage stamps.

46. I confidently expect that the Bahamas will join the International Postal Union in 1880, and it is my intention to refer the matter for the re-consideration of the Legislature.

Legislation.

47. Eight Acts were passed during 1879. The following are the most noteworthy:—

(1.) An Act to encourage the building and keeping of Hotels. This Act sanctions the importation of materials for building hotels duty free.

(2.) An Act sanctioning an additional sum of 300*l.* a year for Educational purposes.

(3.) An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Divorce and Matrimonial causes in the Bahamas. A consolidation of these laws was urgently required, and the law has been assimilated to that which exists in England.

(4.) And an Act to amend the Law relating to the jurisdiction of the Court of Common Pleas. The court is by this Act enabled to hear and try actions of ejectment where the property in question does not exceed 20*l.* in value.

Crime.

48. In 1877, 41 informations were filed against 43 persons. In 1878, 27 against 32, and in 1879, 37 informations against 39.

49. The criminal statistics are very satisfactory, for whereas in 1878 there were seven cases falling within the category of serious offences, there were last year only two. The longest sentence imposed was in a case of perjury.

Gaol.

50. The condition and discipline of the prison are admirable, and the institution is most creditable to the Colony. The annual report will be forwarded as soon as possible.

51. The total number of prisoners committed during the year was 365. Of those committed for penal imprisonment 17 were convicted before the supreme court, 15 military and 3 naval prisoners by courts-martial, and 299 by the police magistrate and the justices on the out islands. Compared with 1878, there was a decrease in the amount of crime, the total commitments in the former year having been 415. Of the 334 prisoners sentenced to penal imprisonment, 42 had been previously committed once, 22 twice, and 149 three times, or oftener. The daily average number of prisoners in 1879 was 71·72, against 72·91 in 1878.

52. The expenditure on the establishment, including the salaries of all the officers, was 1,331*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, showing a decrease of 250*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* on the expenditure of 1878, and 416*l.* 18*s.* on that of 1877.

53. In my Despatch No. 25 of the 28th February 1879, reference is made to the grinding of sugar cane by the Victor mill introduced by me, and also to the manufacture of sugar. In 1879, 76,016 lbs. were ground, the yield being in juice 4,229 gallons, in syrup 629 gallons, and in sugar 130 lbs. Owing to the great increase in the growth of sugar cane, to the introduction of other mills, and the consequent depreciation in the value of

the syrup, it is no longer profitable to make molasses and syrup within the walls of the gaol. The experiment, however, was most successful both from a financial and industrial point of view.

54. A small quantity of cotton was ginned in 1879 by the female prisoners, and, as in 1878, proved very profitable.

55. Since the beginning of last year the officers of the prison have been supplied with uniforms, consisting of tunic, trowsers, and cap of blue serge with a red stripe. Their appearance is much improved thereby, and their authority strengthened. For the future they will be supplied with two suits each year.

56. I am happy to report that the keeper and the subordinate officers have performed their duties very satisfactorily. The Inspector also is entitled to much credit, and it is in a great measure owing to his zeal and untiring energy that the Nassau Gaol will bear comparison with any other prison in Her Majesty's Colonies.

57. The medical officer reports that 67 prisoners were treated in hospital during 1879. This number includes readmissions and cases of minor injuries received while at work. The disease of most frequent occurrence was dysentery, which caused the single death which took place during the year. The general sanitary condition of the establishment is unexceptionable.

Hospital and Asylum.

58. In previous Despatches I have fully reported on this institution. The total number of inmates during 1879 was 204. There were 132 admissions during the year, 84 persons were discharged, and 59 died.

59. Of general paupers and sick there are 40, lunatics 15, and lepers 6.

60. The reason for the heavy death-rate has been already explained by me.

61. Several additions to and alterations in the asylum will be proposed by me to the House of Assembly, and I believe that during 1880 a new lepers' building will be erected capable of containing 12 patients, the general dining-room of the paupers will be enlarged, and a recreation ground will be made available for the inmates. These are necessary and will be great improvements.

Education.

62. There are now 32 schools in operation.

63. The Compulsory Education Act, which has been in force upwards of a year, has not up to the present time produced the results expected of it, owing probably to the non-appointment of an officer to see its provisions carried out. During the present year, a great change for the better will doubtless take place; for, at a meeting of the Board held December 30th, it was decided to employ a constable, whose duty it should be to make a house to house visitation, to find out the names of all children whether attending school or not, to warn those parents who are keeping

BAHAMAS.

their children entirely at home of the determination of the Board of Education to use the compulsory powers entrusted to them, to inquire of the teachers what children are in attendance, and to summon careless parents before the police magistrate. The result, it is hoped, will be a great increase in the numbers attending all schools, whether public or private, some of which are from one half to two thirds empty.

64. If every child who ought to be receiving instruction were regularly sent, some of the school-houses in populous districts would be inconveniently crowded; but whenever this is the case the Legislature, in view of the great good sure to ensue to the Colony from having children disciplined and taught, will doubtless be ready to grant additional means, so that these edifices may be enlarged, or, if necessary, new and more commodious ones erected.

65. Many of the school buildings on the out islands are in such a dilapidated condition that it is impossible to instil into the minds of the pupils habits of neatness, cleanliness, or order; but it is the intention of the Board of Education to expend the whole of the extra annual grant of 300*l.* upon these buildings, either for erection or repairs, as those in New Providence have but lately been renovated. The Victoria School, referred to in my last Blue Book Report, has been largely increased in size by the addition of a southern wing. It is now one of the finest school-houses in the Colony.

66. Including the examinations, about 36 visits, most of them surprise ones, were paid to the schools in New Providence during the last quarter, and four others to those on the out islands, in two of which latter schools inspections were held, viz., in the Harbour Island Boys' and Bluff Schools.

67. In concluding his annual report, the Inspector writes as follows:—"Both teachers and parents would do well to study, " and act upon the truths contained in the following extract from " an address by his Excellency the Governor, at one of the " Christmas examinations: 'I am certain that much of the un- " 'happiness and sorrow which sometimes exist in families is " 'from the rebellious nature of children; and I am also sure " 'that nothing is so likely to prevent this as the good education " 'and the corrective discipline which are to be found in a school " 'of this description. If parents would only avail themselves of " 'the advantages which the Board of Education hold out to " 'them they would increase their own happiness and the " 'success of their children, and would do something towards " 'building up the condition of the Colony upon the sure " 'foundation of an intelligent and Christian people.'"

Agriculture.

68. The impetus which was given to agriculture five years ago is still in course of development. Being anxious to ascertain what had been done in this direction since my arrival, I appointed a gentleman of experience to examine and report upon the matter

so far as New Providence was concerned. He states that it appears for the five years preceding 1874 the land granted for agricultural purposes was 124 acres, whereas since that date the land granted was 272 acres, including Salt Cay (140 acres). This return (if judged as merely a comparative one), however, gives but little idea of the impetus which has actually been given to agriculture. Much of the land granted before 1874 had long been lying idle, and has only on account of that impetus been brought under cultivation; whereas all late grants have been immediately entered upon, and turned to the uses for which they were purchased. About one-third of the land granted between 1869 and 1874 has been brought into cultivation since 1876.

69. The cultivations, speaking as a whole, may be classed as follows:—

Pine-apples.
Oranges.
Bananas.
Cocoa-nuts (a comparatively new industry).
Tomatoes (a new industry).
Onions „
Tobacco „
Lemons „

70. The cultivation of pine-apples has considerably increased and has not been confined to any particular locality on this Island. They are grown at the eastern end at Winton, and, on a small scale, at the extreme western end, at the Baillou Hills, Fox Hill, and other places. The principal cultivations, however, are at "Prospect" and around Lake Killarney, about five or six miles from the city, where Mr. J. S. Johnson has about 160 acres of land planted out with this fruit, a greater area than the whole of the cultivations taken together. In comparison with other products as a paying industry, there can be no doubt that pine-apples are at a disadvantage, for although the returns from this fruit are enjoyed earlier after planting than any other raised here, yet unless the land is of a very superior quality it quickly becomes worn out and valueless. The orange and cocoa-nut can be cultivated in such a manner and under such circumstances with respect to manuring, &c. (which is never done with pine-apples), that orchards of that fruit endure for very many years, and yield ample return for the original labour and expenditure, after pine-apple cultivations have become exhausted.

71. During the past year, and up to within a few weeks, oranges and bananas have been exported in considerable quantities, especially the former. Up to the 21st of January 3,415,100 oranges were shipped from this Island entirely to the United States. The total quantity of bananas exported from the Colony in 1879 was 6,837 bunches, valued at 1,235*l.*, against 350*l.* in 1873. In addition to these, large quantities of grape fruit and some shaddock have been sent away, principally to London, although of the former the American market has taken a fair

BAHAMAS.

share. It is probable that in the future a greater demand will be made for them in the United States than heretofore.

72. The export of cocoa-nuts last year was not large, amounting only to 9,518. This is an industry which has been but lately entered upon to any extent, and from the statistics in regard to it, there is every likelihood that in a few years it will attain to respectable proportions, and the fruit become as regular an article of export as the pine-apple and orange. The number of cocoa-nuts planted in this Island since 1875 is 12,397. The number throughout the Colony in the same period is over 80,000. As every cocoa-nut tree is worth from 4 to 5 dollars per annum, it is reasonable to anticipate that a good harvest from this source alone will ultimately be reaped.

73. Tomatoes were exported from Nassau last year to the number of 8,130 boxes, about 1,050 of which were raised here, the others being sent from Harbour Island and Eleuthera. Considering the limited period in which the attention of agriculturists has been given to this product, it is but reasonable to assume that in the future it will take a prominent place amongst the exports of the Colony.

74. Judging from the character of most of those who are engaged in these cultivations, the manner in which they are carried on, and from the results which have attended the regular and persistent efforts put forth by the proprietors of the various estates and holdings, it is safe to pronounce that the cultivation of the orange and cocoa-nut, entered upon during the past five years, is of a permanent nature, and likely to be extended and increased. The number of orange trees planted within that period in New Providence is 67,630.

75. There seems to be a determination on the part of all classes now engaged in the cultivation of the soil to consider their occupation not as a mere temporary one until something better offers, but as a permanent business, in which they are investing all obtainable capital, with the anticipation of securing in the future a handsome return for their labour during their lives, and a competency for those who may come after them. Some of the estates and cultivations are of long standing, having been started originally by persons who are not now the owners, and have come into the possession of the present proprietors within the last eight or ten years; but the improvements have taken place lately. The spirit of agriculture seems to have been strongly developed in the owners of property along the roads leading to the Baillou Hills and to Sandilands. In the former are to be found some of the finest orchards on the Island, and of the Crown land fronting on this road and lying between Grant's Town and the Baillou Hill ridge there is not an acre available for purchase, the whole of it having been taken up by intending cultivators, the greater portion of it quite recently.

76. The soil throughout the various districts of the Island differs very much in appearance. In the western district it is principally red and loamy, which is considered to be the best for

pine-apples; in others it is composed of black earth, with occasionally a light and sandy surface. This, however, cannot be said of the cultivations to the south of Grant's Town and along the Wulff's and Carmichael roads. In these there is comparatively but little soil, the land being very rocky, and only made to produce the crops it does by the unsparing application of the sweepings of the streets, earth from other places, and manure from pits and stables. In these latter places, considering the nature of the land, the results are astonishing. The party purchasing has first to clear his holding of the brushwood growing upon it, which leaves a surface largely composed of honeycomb rocks, with here and there a spot which will give a place for the planting of orange or other trees; the stone is broken away and used for the building of walls around the allotments, in which the proprietor deposits very large quantities of earth, manure, &c., spreading them over the entire surface of the orchard, and thus preparing it for the reception of the plants he intends to cultivate.

77. In the planting of cocoa-nuts large holes are, in many instances, cut in the rock, in which, being first filled with earth, the nut is placed, and in the majority of cases grows successfully; those so planted seem to thrive better than others placed in sandy or loamy soil. It does not seem possible to suggest any other method of working the land in these particular localities, as those engaged in its cultivation appear to possess a thorough practical knowledge in this respect. The soil at the westward seems to be superior to any, if not all, of the other estates.

78. The cultivation of all exportable fruit having considerably increased during the past five years, the result must be a corresponding decline in the market values. Pine-apples seem to demand the prices which have been hitherto paid, though this may be attributed to the circumstance that growers of that fruit are in most instances shippers and purchasers as well. If the increase in the number of oranges is equal in proportion to the increased numbers of plants set out in the last few years, it is very probable that the prices now paid will decline. The crop for the past season is not yet exhausted, and a few oranges can still be had, if required, for export. Whether this is attributable to the price or not I am unable to ascertain, but I am assured by those who have a special knowledge in the matter that they may be grown and sold profitably at from 20*s.* to 25*s.* per 1,000.

79. The experiment of the cultivation of tobacco in this Island on a large and extensive scale does not seem to have proved satisfactory. The causes which have prevented the successful growing of tobacco are the difficulties encountered in the curing and preparing of the leaf. Although the cultivation has not been continued to the extent of making it a staple article of export, yet the plant, as prepared and cured, when made up into cigars, gives a better cheap class of that article than has hitherto been in use amongst the people, and which has been made from the common imported tobacco. While the cigars so made from this tobacco are

BAHAMAS.

used, they fail to command a price abroad sufficient to compensate for their production.

80. There is one matter in connexion with the export of fruit which requires particular attention, and that is the mode of packing it for shipment. The general system here is to ship large qnantities in bulk, and unless great care is taken to remove the bruised and injured fruit, and the vessel has a quick passage, the result in many cases has been the loss of the greater part of the venture. In shipments by steamer the plan of barrelling the fruit has been adopted, and has succeeded in many instances. In either of the modes mentioned it is indispensable that the fruit should be carefully picked over. The fruit is generally delivered some days before it is packed, and should in all cases be allowed to remain loose, in order that it may be culled of those that are unfit for shipment. When so treated it is easy to detect the bad fruit, as the slightest bruise or injury develops itself in two or three days. In shipments in bulk this plan has not heretofore been adopted, as the fruit is brought down to the shipping-place and immediately put into the vessel, and only such as show the injuries received are removed, while hundreds of others whose bruises cannot be detected are allowed to remain, to the certain detriment of the cargo. The safest and best way to pack oranges, for it is to this fruit that the foregoing remarks apply, is in boxes containing 150 each, in the same way as tomatoes are exported, and similar to the style adopted with the Mediterranean fruit. Carefully chosen, wrapped in paper, and packed in properly-made boxes, there should be nothing to prevent the fruit arriving in the American market in good order and condition. It remains, however, to be considered whether a sufficient number could be conveyed in boxes to cause the venture to be remunerative, taking into account the freight on such packages, as compared with the cost of the freight of a cargo in bulk.

81. Twelve crates of onions were exported from Nassau last year, and realised in New York 1*s.* a crate more than the famous Bermuda onion. This is a new export.

82. Tomatoes are generally planted in small patches. I have not been able to ascertain accurately the actual amount under cultivation with this vegetable. I may observe, however, that Mr. H. R. Saunders has six acres yielding tomatoes, and that they find a ready sale throughout the season at the R. V. Hotel, and are largely bought at remunerative prices by the general public.

83. With regard to the extended cultivation of the cane, I would observe that one of the most enterprising gentlemen in New Providence manufactured 500 barrels of sugar last year. A few years ago not a pound of sugar was made in the Colony. Encouraging reports have been received by me from the various out islands, and a systematic pursuit of agriculture will, I am convinced, tend only to further the comfort and welfare of the community by adding to the exports and increasing the earnings of the labouring classes.

84. As this, perhaps, will be the last Blue Book report I shall write from the Bahamas, I may, without laying myself open to the charge of egotism, but with pardonable pride, invite the most searching comparison between the general condition of the Colony now and any period since the American civil war. I may also express an earnest hope, not only that wise and enlightened counsels may ever prevail in the Legislature of the Colony, but that the efforts of the Executive may unceasingly be directed towards the moral and social improvement of the people by stimulating education and agriculture, the most powerful factors of civilisation and prosperity.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.
Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Annexure to No. 8.)

Zoological Laboratory, University College,
SIR, Gower Street, June 11, 1880.

IN accordance with your request that I should report to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies upon the subject of the artificial cultivation of sponges for commercial purposes, I have made inquiries (as I expressed my intention of doing in my reply to your letter dated April 26th, 1880) relative to the experiments inaugurated by the Austrian Government.

I have received communications on the subject from Professor Oscar Schmidt (now of Strasburg), who initiated the experiments in the Adriatic, and also from Professor Eilhardt Schulze (of Gratz), at present Director of the Zoological Observatory erected by the Austrian Imperial Government at Trieste. I have also carefully studied a report by Dr. Emil von Marenzeller, published in the "Verhandlungen der k. k. zoologisch-botanischen Gesellschaft in Wien," vol. xxviii., 1879, p. 687, which is based upon official documents prepared by the Austrian Minister of Agriculture, and upon special information supplied by Professor Oscar Schmidt.

The experiments in the Adriatic were carried out under the auspices of the Government during the years 1863–72, and were finally abandoned in November 1872 on account of the difficulties which were encountered.

It appears that the method of cutting a sponge into small pieces, affixing these pieces to moveable supports, and sinking the supports in the waters where the sponges naturally occur, was found to be perfectly successful. The "cuttings" of sponge attached themselves to the support and proceeded to grow each into a well shaped sponge like that from which the cutting was taken. Details are given in Dr. Von Marenzeller's report as to

BAHAMAS.

the best mode of taking the cuttings, and as to the best material for supports, also as to the time of year in which to operate, and other important conditions.

It appears that from a small cutting (26 cubic millimetres in bulk) a sponge of marketable size would be produced in about seven years growth.

Whilst the experiments of the Austrian Government demonstrated the soundness of Professor Oscar Schmidt's suggestion, in consequence of which the cultivation was attempted, yet two difficulties sufficed to put a stop to the undertaking.

Firstly, the native population, more especially the fishermen, had a great objection to these experiments, fearing that they might lead to the injury of the sponge trade, and consequently they persistently disturbed and robbed the experimental sponge bed. It was necessary that the sponge cuttings on their supports should be placed in an open unprotected bay in order to secure the requisite condition of the sea water and natural food of the sponge, and at the same time the expense of protecting the bay during a long series of years against the depredations of the fishermen would have been very great and incommensurate with the profit to be obtained by the sale of the sponges when full grown. The hostility of the population of the Adriatic coast was then the chief cause of the abandonment of the experiments. But, further, the slow growth of the sponges (first established as a fact by these experiments), and the expense of obtaining the cuttings, and of making and sinking the supports, seemed to show with considerable clearness that the profit to be obtained by such a system of cultivation would be extremely small.

It appears that the actual weight of sponge produced in a given time is not increased by the plan of dividing a live sponge into many separate pieces; the undivided sponge would have increased by the same amount as that by which the whole series of separate pieces have increased *in the same time*, and inasmuch as a *large* sponge is more valuable commercially than an equal weight of *small* sponges, the utility of the operation of taking cuttings is very doubtful. It could only be of service for the purpose of diffusing sponges over a wider area of the sea bottom than that over which they would *naturally* spread; if such a diffusion could be effected, the sponge might be introduced to new and *unoccupied* ground, and thus obtain increased facilities for nutrition, and a better chance of falling upon one of those favourable situations which cause the sponge to grow to a good size; but the situations suitable to the healthy growth of sponges appear to be (so far as our knowledge goes) *already* fully tenanted by sponges which multiply and diffuse themselves naturally by means of eggs which give rise to minute swimming germs, these germs after a time fixing themselves, and developing by slow growth into sponges like those which produced the eggs.

It *may* be possible by means of the system of sponge cutting, proposed by Professor Oscar Schmidt, to introduce sponges into new situations previously unoccupied; and experiments in this

direction, though requiring great skill and knowledge of the conditions favourable to sponge growth, would be worth trying.

Excepting with this object the method of sponge cutting does not seem to be one of any promise.

In relation merely to the management of an existing sponge fishery, I am of opinion that all that can be done by official control is to prevent the contamination or unnatural disturbance of the waters and bottom where the sponges grow; and, secondly, *to strictly enforce a limitation of size* in regard to those sponges which are fished and sold. Only large sponges should be removed from the sea bottom for the market, and all smaller and incompletely grown specimens should be returned to the waters by the fishermen *immediately* when taken. Further, the ground on which the sponges grow should not be too often dredged, but only at certain intervals in the year. In making these recommendations I am supported by the opinion of Professor Schulze, who has during the last six years devoted himself to the study of the life history of the Adriatic sponges, and has added many most important facts to our knowledge of these animals.

Whilst these are the counsels which our present knowledge of the subject justify, it must be distinctly understood that further experiment in the matter is to be desired, and might be crowned with a practical success. It *may* be possible to construct artificial basons (of large size, some hundreds of yards in area,) in which the water shall be of proper depth, temperature, and purity for the growth of the commercial sponge, and such basons might be stocked with sponges by the use of the "method of cuttings." No experiments with artificial basons have as yet been carried out.

I may mention, in conclusion, that the Natural History Department of the British Museum does not possess any specimens of the commercial sponges of the Bahamas Islands, and I have reason to believe that a representative series of specimens illustrating the sponge fishery of those islands would be a welcome addition to the National Collection.

Should his Excellency the Governor of the Bahamas Islands desire any further advice or information on this subject, it would be indispensable that he should furnish a somewhat minute account of the locality, depths, mode of fishing, seasons of fishing, size of specimens, characteristics of the species, and similar details relative to the sponge fishery as at present in operation on the coasts of those Islands.

I have, &c.

E. RAY LANKESTER.

Edward Wingfield, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

St. Vincent.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 9.

Governor Strahan, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.

Sir, Barbados, May 3, 1880.

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of St. Vincent for the year 1879, together with the report of the Officer Administering the Government thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Geo. J. Strahan,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Mr. Laborde to Governor Strahan.

Government House, St. Vincent,
Sir, April 21, 1880.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1879, with the following report thereon.

Taxes, Duties, Fees.

2. No alteration was made in the taxation in the past year. Under "The Small Debts Ordinance, 1879," the fees in the Small Debts Courts were slightly varied; and under "The Medical Witnesses Remuneration Ordinance, 1879," fees were re-established for medical officers giving evidence, and making post mortem examinations and analyses, at Coroners' Inquests.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of 1879 was 37,064*l.*, namely:—

	£
From receipts for general purposes - -	32,203
„ „ immigration - -	3,259
„ „ the Town of Kingstown -	1,602

The revenue for 1878 was 33,497*l.*, namely:—

From receipts for general purposes - -	28,843
„ „ immigration - -	3,189
„ „ the Town of Kingstown -	1,465

4. The increase in the revenue for general purposes in the past year was principally due to the 20 per cent. levied on the duties on imported goods under an Ordinance of 1878; but there was also a slight increase in the export and tonnage dues, in conse-

quence of the staple productions of the Colony having been larger. To this latter cause is also to be attributed the increase in the immigration revenue. The Town of Kingstown revenue was augmented by an additional rate of one per cent. on house property, for improving the town.

4. The expenditure in 1879 was 34,977*l.*, namely:—

	£
For general purposes - - -	30,653
„ immigration - - - -	3,532
„ the Town of Kingstown - - -	792

The expenditure in 1878 was 36,244*l.*, namely:—

For general purposes - - -	34,790
„ immigration - - - -	582
„ the Town of Kingstown - - -	872

6. The expenditure in 1879 for general purposes was 4,137*l.* less than in 1878. But in the last-mentioned year 3,000*l.* was paid for arrears of subsidy previously due to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. Deducting this amount, which did not belong to the service of the year, the difference between the two years was only 1,137*l.*, which was chiefly attributable to diminished expenditure in 1879 on public works.

7. The expenditure for immigration was 2,950*l.* in excess of that in 1878. This arose from the issue of bounty to 297 Indian immigrants, who, having become entitled to free back passages, commuted their claims, under the provisions of "The Immigration "Ordinance, 1878," for payments in money.

8. A statement of the assets and liabilities of the Colony as at 1st January 1880 is subjoined. The surplus of assets here shown is 1,215*l.* more than at the corresponding period in 1879:—

Assets.	£	s.	d.	Liabilities.	£	s.	d.
General cash balance from 1879 - - -	9,355	5	6	Due to depositors in savings bank - - -	6,081	15	4
In hands of Crown Agents	263	7	10	Due to immigration fund -	3,969	16	5
Advances to be recouped, viz.:—				Due to Town of Kingstown current account -	285	6	7
To Town of Kingstown waterworks account - -	4,624	9	4	Due to Commissioners of Public Lands and Buildings - - -	337	11	5
Amount recoverable from the London Guarantee and Accident Company (Limited), on account of their bond for Mr. Shaw, late Treasurer - -	1,000	0	0	Surplus of assets - -	4,568	12	11
	£15,243	2	8		£15,243	2	8

Public Debt.

9. The general revenue remained indebted to the savings bank in the sum of 3,000*l.*, which had been appropriated in 1878 to

ST. VINCENT.

the payment of the arrears of subsidy to the Telegraph Company. No interest is paid on this debt beyond the 3 per cent. guaranteed by the Government to the depositors in the savings bank. Provision is made for the repayment in this year of 500*l.* of this debt; and the balance is to be liquidated from the general revenue as soon as possible.

10. The debt due by the Town of Kingstown to the general revenue was reduced in 1879, and was at the close of the year 4,339*l.* No interest is paid by the town on this debt.

Military Expenditure.

11. Since the passing of "The Militia Meetings Suspension Act, 1868," the militia has not been called out. The period of enlistment of the two volunteer corps, whose meetings were also suspended by that Act, expired shortly after 1868. The arms which had been furnished on loan to the Colony, were then called in by the Imperial Government. The militia establishment has ever since been purely nominal.

12. In 1873 the Colony purchased the following arms:—

100 B. L. Snider rifles,
10 Colt's revolvers,
50 Cavalry swords,

and there are some S. B. muskets in store, and four brass 3-pr. guns fit for service. The police are armed with these rifles, and are trained in their use.

13. A sum of 38*l.* was expended in 1879 in the payment of the officer in charge of the fort and magazine, and in the keeping in order the guns, &c.

14. No expenditure was incurred by Great Britain in the military protection of the Colony. The salary of the Lieutenant-Governor, 1,300*l.*, was the only amount paid in aid of the civil establishment.

Public Works.

15. The bridge over the Colonarie River was completed and opened for traffic in March 1879. The original estimate for the work was 2,350*l.* Tenders were called for, but the lowest offer for the erection of the masonry abutments and piers was 3,500*l.* The Colonial Engineer, at the request of the Lieutenant-Governor, then undertook the work himself. The result has been that, including 784*l.*, which was the price of the iron-work of the bridge imported from England, the whole cost of the construction was 3,302*l.*, or about 1,000*l.* less than if the lowest tender for the masonry had been accepted.

16. The improvements in the hospital buildings, which had been commenced in 1878, and which had been then carried out in the substantial repair of one of the former buildings, was further continued, and the erection, under contract, of a large stone and brick building was commenced. Besides material ordered from England to the value of 300*l.*, a sum of 180*l.* was expended by the end of the year under this contract.

17. The jetty at Barrouallie, which was begun in 1878, was completed about the middle of the year. That at Chateaubelair, which was commenced in July, was nearly carried to completion at the close of the year, and was shortly after finished at a cost of 450*l.*

18. The enclosure of the land presented to the Colony by the Hon. Mr. Porter for a public cemetery was proceeded with; and of 400*l.* which had been placed on the estimates for 1879 for this work, a sum of 314*l.* was spent.

19. The other items of public works embraced only the annual repairs of the public buildings and the public highways, on the latter of which, however, an unusually large sum was expended, in consequence of the damage done to them by the heavy floods in the month of November.

Legislation.

20. Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed and became law in the year. The majority of these were to consolidate and amend existing laws.

21. An Ordinance was for the first time passed granting a subsidy of 250*l.* a year to the St. Vincent Steam Navigation Company (Limited), for the conveyance of mails and public officers and other persons travelling on duty by their steamboats to and fro on the leeward coast of the Island. This Ordinance also guaranteed to the company interest for the first three years at 6 per cent. on their paid-up capital, not exceeding 3,000*l.* The paid-up capital was 2,000*l.*, and the Colony had to pay in 1879 30*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* to make good its guarantee of 6 per cent. to the shareholders.

22. In order to prevent the Indian immigrants from being enticed from the Colony, and particularly from being removed to Colonies where they would not have the equal protection guaranteed to them in the British Colonies, an Ordinance was passed imposing severe penalties on any unauthorised persons who may be found enticing these labourers or their descendants to leave the Colony for service beyond its limits, and also on all persons who may be found aiding and abetting such persons in enticing them away.

23. As the Spanish, Mexican, and Columbian silver dollars had of late years become depreciated, and below the value placed on them by the Royal Proclamation, an Ordinance was published on the 21st of May demonetising these dollars, and declaring that they should no longer be taken as a legal tender of payment.

24. On the 23rd September an Ordinance was published authorising the Governor to establish a system of post office money orders between St. Vincent and other places. The system has since been established with Trinidad, and will shortly be extended to some of the other neighbouring Colonies.

25. A law was also brought into operation for the transfer of lunatics from or to this Island to, or from, any other Island of the Windward Group. Under its provisions the male lunatics, seven

ST. VINCENT.

in number, who were in the asylum here, were sent on the 31st of December to the asylum in Grenada.

26. But by far the most important legislation in the year, and perhaps the most acceptable, was the passing of the "Ordinance "for the abolition of imprisonment for debt, for the punishment "of fraudulent debtors, and for other purposes." The Ordinance came into operation on the 31st of December, when eight debtors were liberated from prison. The local law on this subject is now assimilated, as nearly as circumstances will admit, to that of Great Britain.

27. The Legislative Council has accomplished a large amount of useful legislation since its inauguration in January 1878. The Ordinances which have been passed in the two years have gone far in clearing away the imperfections which were in the statute book, and in condensing and improving its contents.

Civil Establishment.

28. Mr. Francis Bell Griffith, from the Inland Revenue Department in Barbados, was appointed Treasurer and Controller of Navigation Laws, and assumed the duties of his appointments on the 8th day of October. Lieutenant W. J. Tydd, R.A., arrived from England on the 19th of September, and entered on his duties as Chief of Police; Mr. Van Heyningen, who had been in that office since 1872, being transferred to the magistracy in the Calliaqua district. Doctor George L. Latour and Doctor M. O'Carroll, from England, were appointed District Medical Officers. The former was placed in charge of the Leeward district, in the room of Doctor Galgey, who had left for St. Lucia in November 1878. The latter came out to be the Magistrate and Medical Officer of the Grenadines district, an appointment newly provided for under "The Magistrate and Police Ordinance, 1878," but in consequence of the ill health of Doctor Snagg, he was temporarily placed in charge of the Windward district. In June the arrangement was carried out, which had been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, for the combination, in the person of Mr. Choppin, of the offices of Attorney-General and Police Magistrate of the Kingstown district. Mr. Allan Lewis, who had been acting as the Magistrate of that district since May 1877, thereupon resumed his own office of Colonial Registrar.

Population and Health.

29. The population of the Colony, based on the census taken in April 1871, and corrected by the results of the registration of subsequent years, was placed at the close of 1878 at 40,708. These figures are, however, subject to increase or diminution according as immigration or emigration has prevailed. No registry is required by the law in these respects, and the only information on the subject is that obtained from the harbour-master's reports of the arrival and departure of passengers. Subjoined is a table, derived from this source, showing the immigra-

tion and emigration in the last six years of persons of the class of artizans and labourers:—

Arrivals in St. Vincent from	Antigua.	Barbados.	Carriacou.	Demerara.	Dominica.	Grenada.	Guadaloupe.	Martinique.	Montserrat.	Nevis.	St. Barts.	St. Kitts.	St. Lucia.	St. Martin's.	Trinidad.	Tobago.	Total.
In 1874 -	107	331	248	—	17	184	3	22	—	—	—	2	118	1	252	—	1,285
„ 1875 -	84	371	207	1	—	180	2	38	17	5	—	143	58	—	234	4	1,344
„ 1876 -	53	379	226	—	—	133	—	104	7	44	1	9	64	—	219	—	1,239
„ 1877 -	44	303	237	—	20	137	2	77	—	6	—	6	60	4	200	—	1,096
„ 1878 -	9	234	176	—	5	189	—	185	1	—	—	—	36	—	250	—	1,085
„ 1879 -	—	252	198	—	—	237	—	214	—	—	—	—	67	—	302	—	1,270

Departures from St. Vincent to	Antigua.	Barbados.	Carriacou.	Demerara.	Dominica.	Grenada.	Guadaloupe.	Martinique.	Montserrat.	Nevis.	St. Barts.	St. Kitts.	St. Lucia.	St. Martin's.	Trinidad.	Tobago.	Total.
In 1874 -	—	155	100	—	—	125	—	3	—	2	—	—	110	—	323	—	818
„ 1875 -	6	140	83	—	—	142	—	24	—	—	—	—	49	—	245	—	689
„ 1876 -	12	175	137	—	—	163	1	21	—	—	—	3	54	—	277	—	843
„ 1877 -	31	117	112	—	3	136	—	18	—	—	—	11	58	2	257	—	745
1878 -	8	131	76	—	2	180	—	89	—	3	—	—	41	2	210	1	743
„ 1879 -	3	104	115	—	2	189	—	45	—	—	—	20	52	—	490	3	1,023

30. In 1879 there were 1,684 living births, 869 males and 815 females, and there were 1,024 deaths, 524 males and 500 females. There were also 108 still births, 57 males and 51 females, recorded both as births and deaths. The population by the increase of this year may be stated at 41,368.

31. The birth rate was 41 per 1,000, and the death rate was 25 per 1,000. These rates have varied but slightly in the last 10 years, as will be seen from the following figures:—

——	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
Birth rate per thousand -	49	50	45	48	44	45	47	47	43	41
Death rate per thousand -	33	28	27	26	27	31	31	29	27	25

32. The average birth rate in this period was 45·9, and the average death rate 28·4 per thousand.

33. The mortality among infants under one year of age was 25 per cent. in 1879. The average of the last 10 years was 25·1. The mortality among all ages up to 15 years was 53·6 per cent. in 1879. The average of the last 10 years was 54·4.

34. Illegitimacy still prevails. Of the births in 1879, 54·5 per cent. were illegitimate. The average of 10 years was 55·4.

ST. VINCENT.

35. There were 240 marriages in the year, of which 58 per cent. were performed by Anglican, 9 per cent. by Roman Catholic, and 33 per cent. by Wesleyan ministers.

36. The health of the Colony was good; the temperature was exceedingly mild, and below the usual average. The rainfall was beyond the average, 118·77 inches having been recorded at the Government House in the year.

Savings Banks, &c.

37. There were at the close of 1879 650 depositors in the savings bank, having deposits amounting to 6,082*l.* At the end of 1878 there were 672 depositors, having 5,416*l.* on deposit.

38. There were seven friendly societies in connexion with the Anglican Church, with 1,002 members; and five societies in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodists, with 487 members.

39. Direct taxes are levied only in respect of incomes, carriages, animals, and lands. Animals used solely for agricultural purposes are exempt from taxes. The persons paying direct taxes in 1879 numbered 2,090.

40. In the previous year the number was 4,530. The decrease has been caused by the recent change in the law, which exempts from taxation lots not exceeding one acre in extent when not forming part of a tract of land of greater extent belonging to the same owner.

Education.

41. The primary schools for the education of the children of the lower orders are denominational. They are established by the ministers of religion, and are conducted under their supervision and control. State aid is given to such of these schools as may attain the standard of numbers fixed by rules made by the Governor in Council under the Education Ordinance. Praemia are also awarded to the teachers according to the results of the examinations periodically held by the inspector of schools.

42. Prior to 1872, when the present system of State aid was established, fixed annual sums were paid to the heads of each of the religious denominations, which sums were appropriated irrespective of any Government regulations. The annual distribution was then as follows: to the ministers of the Anglican Church 400*l.*, to the Wesleyan body 225*l.*, and to the Roman Catholics 75*l.*

43. Besides these grants to the ministers of religion, 150*l.* were paid in aid of a school in Kingstown for the education of boys and girls, which had been established many years previously, in the time of slavery, by some gentlemen who had enrolled themselves as a "Society for the Education of the Poor." This society had almost lost vitality when the change in the system of education for the poorer classes was made in 1872, and the school became then, and continues, a State-aided school.

44. The present regulation is that the master of every town school which attains an average daily attendance of 40 children

shall receive 5*l.* per quarter from the education grant, and that the master of every village school which attains an average daily attendance of 30 children shall receive 3*l.* per quarter. In these schools a maximum weekly fee of 2*d.* is required to be paid to the master for each child, as a condition entitling the school to State aid.

45. Negro parents have never evinced much interest in the education of their children. The following table will show the attendance in the schools in the last 10 years, the sums expended by the Government, the voluntary aid given, and the weekly pence, or fees, paid by the children, and the total sum annually spent in the education of the people.

Year.	Attendance.	Government Aid.	Voluntary Aid.	Children's Fees.	Total Cost.
		£	£	£	£
1870 -	*3,261	850	970	—	1,820
1871 -	*3,318	850	899	—	1,752
1872 -	2,317	771	980	482	1,750
1873 -	2,400	910	360	548	1,818
1874 -	2,922	1,258	408	657	2,324
1875 -	3,305	1,386	594	598	2,578
1876 -	3,241	1,553	298	546	2,397
1877 -	3,273	1,313	603	469	2,385
1878 -	3,661	1,501	191	475	2,167
1879 -	3,695	1,663	422	479	2,564

46. The number of scholars attending in 1879 in 67 schools was 3,965. In 1878 the number was, in 64 schools, 3,661, giving an increase in the past year of three schools and 304 children.

47. The cost of the maintenance of the 64 schools in 1878 was 2,167*l.*, and of the 67 schools in 1879, 2,564*l.* In the former year the Government aid was 1,501*l.*, the voluntary contributions 191*l.*, and the children's pence 475*l.*; in the latter the figures are respectively 1,663*l.*, 422*l.*, and 479*l.*

Exchanges, Moneys, Weights and Measures.

48. There is scarcely any variation in the course of exchange. The only bank doing business in the Island is a branch of the Colonial Bank. This bank, through the greater part of the year, sells its drafts on London, at 90 days' sight, at par, that is at $480 for the 100*l.* At this time it purchases bills at a discount of $10, that is it gives $470 for the 100*l.* After the crops are shipped away the bank raises its rates for a time, charging a premium on the bills it sells, and advancing the exchange on bills it purchases.

49. In 1879, the silver dollars, heretofore a legal tender, under the Royal proclamation, at 4*s.* 2*d.*, were demonetized, and were called in and purchased by the Government.

* The attendance given in these years was the number on the books. In subsequent years the average attendance is given.

ST. VINCENT.

50. British gold, silver, and copper coins are current; and the gold coins of the United States of America are current at the valuation fixed by the Royal proclamation.

Shipping.

51. The port of Kingstown is the only port of entry in the Colony. The number of sailing vessels which entered and cleared, their tonnage and crews, are stated in the following table:—

—	1878.			1879.		
	No. of Vessels.	No. of Tons.	No. of Crews.	No. of Vessels.	No. of Tons.	No. of Crews.
Entered -	325	20,486	1,644	343	22,061	1,727
Cleared -	316	20,303	1,764	344	21,611	1,718

52. One steam vessel of 403 tons and 40 men entered and cleared in ballast. The steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which bring the mails to the Colony, are not noted in the shipping return.

Imports and Exports.

53. The imports in 1879 were valued at 159,433*l.* and the exports at 160,334*l.* In 1878 these were respectively valued at 150,397*l.* and 161,557*l.* The decrease of value in the exports in the past year was due to the low prices for the staple products of the Colony which prevailed in the home markets, the quantities produced and exported having been in excess of the quantities in 1878.

54. The imports from Great Britain were valued at 80,502*l.*, and the exports to it at 146,643*l.* From and to the British West Indies the imports and exports were of the value of 58,392*l.* and 6,754*l.* From British North America the imports were valued at 5,778*l.*, and the exports to it at 2,780*l.* From foreign countries the value of the imports was 14,761*l.*, and the exports to them 4,152*l.*

55. The value of the imported goods on which duty was paid was 141,959*l.*, of goods free of duty 13,494*l.*, and of goods in transit 3,980*l.* These values in 1878 were respectively 136,775*l.*, 11,134*l.*, and 2,488*l.*

Agriculture.

56. The following table exhibits the products of the Colony which have been exported during the last 10 years. The quantities manufactured are, of course, considerably in excess of the quantities exported, for the home consumption has to be supplied, but of this excess no idea can be formed except with respect to rum, on which there is an excise duty on that which is

consumed. The consumption in the Colony is about 400 puncheons a year:—

Year.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Arrowroot.	Cocoa.	Cotton.
	hhds.	puns.	puns.	barrels.	lbs.	lbs.
1870 -	12,948	2,155	1,638	10,379	6,240	51,520
1871 -	13,318	2,655	953	10,714	5,680	27,104
1872 -	11,342	1,908	1,610	11,7?2	5,760	54,432
1873 -	9,326	2,558	764	12,359	11,840	33,600
1874 -	10,254	1,131	887	15,830	9,640	44,576
1875 -	11,514	2,202	1,336	14,411	6,640	48,608
1876 -	9,102	1,791	789	15,083	8,800	60,032
1877 -	8,611	1,715	1,548	17,669	14,784	74,928
1878 -	8,601	1,789	1,371	17,549	11,996	48,888
1879 -	10,276	1,525	1,049	14,916	28,080	63,140

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

57. Under this head there is nothing to report, except on the whale fishery. Some years ago many American whaling vessels fished in these waters, but they are now rarely seen. A few persons residing in the Islands of the Government known as the Grenadines, have supplied themselves with whaling boats and gear. These succeed in catching some whales, but their take seems uncertain and to be decreasing in quantity, as the following figures show:—

			£
Whale oil exported in	1876,	610 barrels valued at	1,830
„	„	1877, 750 „ „	2,259
„	„	1878, 581 „ „	1,264
„	„	1879, 370 „ „	315

Prison and Prisoners.

58. The commitments to prison were 329. Of these, 85 were committed for debt, 32 for safe custody, and 212 for punishment. In 1878 these numbers were respectively 99, 21, and 255, making the total commitments in that year, 375, or 46 more than in 1879. Of the prisoners committed for punishment 58 had been previously convicted once, 29 twice, and 51 three times or more. There were no commitments for penal imprisonment for five or more years; in 1878 there were nine such commitments. For one year or more, but less than five years, there were four commitments, against six in the previous year. There were 23 commitments for more than three months and less than one year, and 185 for three months or less, the figures in 1878 for the corresponding commitments having been 5 and 235.

59. The average daily number of prisoners was 48. The cost of the prison exclusive of the cost of the establishment was 490*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, giving an average cost for each prisoner of 10*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

ST. VINCENT.

60. The prison was healthy. The admissions to hospital were three, and the daily average on the sick list was four. There were two deaths in the year; one prisoner died, a few days after his committal as a vagrant, of general debility, the other died of dysentery.

Crime.

61. The following table exhibits the criminal statistics for the last four years:—

—	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.
The number of offences reported - - -	3,546	3,169	3,049	2,891
Summary convictions:—				
For offences against the person - - -	340	262	351	311
For praedial larceny - - - -	121	100	46	36
For offences against property, other than praedial larceny - - - - - -	204	149	156	109
Other offences - - - - -	834	672	637	593
Convictions in the superior courts:—				
For offences against the person - - -	5	10	7	4
For arson - - - - - -	1	—	—	—
For offences against property, other than praedial larceny - - - - - -	10	8	7	4
For other offences - - - - -	1	—	1	3
Acquittals in the inferior courts - -	380	413	378	404
„ „ superior courts - - -	6	17	20	10

Hospital and Asylum.

62. There were 463 admissions into the hospital in the year 1879. The number remaining from the previous year was 63, and the total number under treatment was 526. The daily average number under treatment was 60.

63. In 1878, the total number of patients under treatment was 513, and the daily average was 47.

64. The deaths numbered 25, which gave a death rate on those treated of 4·75, and on the bed rate of 41·6.

65. In the lunatic asylum there were, at the commencement of 1879, eight males and six females. In the year one male and three females were admitted. Two males and one female were discharged, and seven males and eight females remained under treatment at the end of the year. There were no deaths in the asylum in 1879.

66. On the 31st of December the seven male lunatics were transferred by the mail packet to Grenada, where, under the authority of "The Lunatic Transfer Ordinance, 1879," these lunatics will be kept at the cost to this Colony of 31*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per head. The asylum here will in future accommodate only female lunatics.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.

His Excellency Governor Strahan, C.M.G.

&c. &c. &c.

TOBAGO.

No. 10.

From the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of the WINDWARD ISLANDS.

Government House, Tobago,
June 1, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Tobago for 1879 for the information of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and beg leave to offer the following comments and explanations upon some of the most important of its contents.

Taxes.

The Ordinance raising the rates on estate's lands and tenements to 3*s.* in the pound for 1878, having expired on the 31st of December of that year, the rate fell to 2*s.* in the pound during 1879. This diminution fully accounts for the difference between the amount collected in 1878 and that in 1879, viz., 572*l.*

Fees.

The fees demanded by the several public officers remained at the same rates as those set forth in the Blue Book of 1878.

Revenue.

The difference between the revenue of 1878 which amounted to 14,306*l.*, and that of 1879, 11,500*l.*, is thus accounted for :—

The imports which in 1878 had yielded 5,595*l.* only gave 5,049*l.* during the past year ; this falling off is attributable to the depressed state of trade generally, and to the low prices of sugar prevailing throughout the year.

Owing to the surrender of the export tax, there was also a decrease of revenue of about 900*l.* under this head ; whilst the abstract of receipts for 1878 contains a further amount of 1,000*l.*, representing the loan of 1878, which had been brought to the credit of the general revenue.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of 1879, as compared with that of 1878, was, however, considerably reduced, the difference being no less than 2,870*l.*

From the comparative table of expenditure your Excellency will see that of this amount about 900*l.* was saved upon salaries, either by the abolition of offices, or by the appointment of officers

TOBAGO.

upon the understanding that only half salaries would be available, in view of the liabilities under which the Colony was labouring, whilst the expenditure on account of public works was reduced by 1,000*l.*, and that under the head of military and volunteers by 860*l.*

Public Debt 1,000*l.*

This amount was borrowed in July 1878 at 7 per cent. interest, and was applied to paying off certain pressing claims against the Colony. It is redeemable on the 1st of August 1882.

The Colony also owes about 830*l.* (for which interest at 5 per cent. is being paid) to the Crown agents on account of temporary advances on orders for clothing for police and volunteers, &c.; in addition to which there were other outstanding liabilities on the 31st of December last amounting to 1,920*l.*, of which no less than 1,600*l.* was due for three months' arrears of salaries to public officers.

Legislation.

Altogether 22 Ordinances were passed in 1879, of which 14 have received the Royal Assent.

The most important of these enactments are the following:—

The Grand Jury Abolition Ordinance (No. 2), and the Jury Ordinance (No. 3), the latter being the sequel to the former.

For some years past the numbers of the grand jury had been steadily diminishing, and the petty jury panel had also become much reduced. It seemed to me, therefore, that the time had arrived for the amalgamation of the two lists; and the proposal being favourably received by the members of the Legislature, and by the public generally, effect was given to the proposed alteration.

I am glad to say that the change which has been carried out by these enactments has proved satisfactory.

The office of clerks of petty sessions was abolished (Ordinance No. 4) in furtherance of a scheme for reducing judicial expenditure.

The aggregate amount of these salaries being 475*l.* per annum, a further sum of 50*l.* a year was also saved under Ordinance (No. 18) which abolished the office of clerk to certain public boards.

The additional taxation of 1*s.* in the pound laid on sugar estates during 1878, and on properties rated at 5*l.* and upwards, was reduced from 15 to 10 per cent. (Ordinance No. 12); and in consideration of the loan made to the Government of the amount collected ostensibly for immigration purposes, the duty on stills was reduced (No. 13) from 8*d.* to 4*d.* a gallon, whilst for the same reason the Export Tax (No. 16) was repealed.

The Stamp Ordinance (No. 19) was introduced in aid of the general revenue in view of outstanding liabilities, and of the falling off in the duties collected on imports; it was estimated to yield at the rate of 200*l.* per annum, it actually produced 180*l.* between the 1st of July and 31st of December 1879, and if it

continues for the remaining half of 1880 to be as productive as it has proved for the first five months it will add about 350*l.* to the revenue.

Under Ordinance (No. 20) authority is given to transfer insane persons confined in the common gaol at Scarborough to the lunatic asylum in Grenada, and the transfer of the lunatics then in prison was effected in January last.

This Ordinance was framed by order of the Secretary of State in consequence of my report upon the Tobago Blue Book of 1877 calling attention to the want of a decent place of confinement in Tobago for the insane.

Pensions.

No pension is now payable by this Government under any local enactment, that granted to Mr. Crooks having been repealed by Ordinance No. 24 of 1879.

Population.

The last census taken was that of 1871, since which time the population has not, I fear, increased in the proportion it should have done. I attribute this to a great extent to the emigration to Trinidad which has prevailed of late years, owing to want of regular employment on sugar estates, the result, no doubt, of the low prices of produce, which crippled the means at the disposal of cultivators. I am sorry to say that as I have not yet received the returns of births, deaths, and marriages for 1878 or 1879 from the Registrar-General I am unable to make any report upon these statistics.

Imports and Exports.

I regret to have to report that the imports have for the last three years been steadily falling off, as will be seen by the following table :—

From whence.	1877.	1878.	1879.
	£	£	£
Great Britain - - -	31,812	15,013	11,090
Other countries - - -	26,948	26,393	26,269
Total - -	58,750	41,406	37,359

The estimated value of exports, however, has during the three corresponding years remained almost stationary ; if anything, showing a slight increase :—

——	1877.	1878.	1879.
	£	£	£
Exports - - - -	69,058	68,064	70,455

TOBAGO.

Shipping

In 1878, 5,530 tons of shipping was entered, against 5,576 tons in 1879; but as regards the tonnage cleared in ballast, there was a difference of 289 tons against 1879.

Education.

I am unable to append the usual report on education, as the inspector of schools has been kept back in his school returns for want of printed forms, owing to the almost entire break down of the establishment of the contractors for public printing.

Grants of Crown Lands.

No grants of Crown lands have been made for many years in Tobago.

Some months ago I suggested that certain Crown lands should be sold in 10 acre lots, and this proposal was laid before the Legislative Council, but did not receive encouragement at the hands of the planting section of the Legislature, who, I fear, entertain an opinion that by giving the peasantry facilities for acquiring lands they would be diminishing the planters' command of labour, quite forgetting that owing to the want of regular daily employment on estates a large number of able-bodied negroes have been driven to emigrate during 1878 and at the commencement of 1879.

Criminal Statistics.

I am glad to be able to report favourably upon the statistics of crime during 1879. There was a marked decrease under the following heads, as compared with the returns of 1878:—

	1878.	1879.	Decrease.
Apprehensions and summonses - -	1,532	1,375	157
Summary Convictions.			
Offences against property other than prædial larceny.	87	11	76
Other offences - - - -	675	502	173

whilst the general conduct of both the holders of ticket-of-leave and of the convicts in gaol was remarkably good.

Hospital.

Under instructions from the Governor-in-Chief, given during his visit to Tobago in April 1879, the asylum for female patients has been given up, and the inmates have been removed to the upper floor of the General Hospital. I have therefore enjoined the greatest vigilance on the part of the matron in charge of these women to see that no communication takes place between the occupants of the upper and lower floors.

The improvements referred to by the acting public medical officer, which are still required, such as (1) the erection of new latrines to leeward of the hospital, and (2) the alteration of the present mode of ventilation, must unfortunately be postponed for the present, as it is absolutely necessary to reduce expenditure of every kind. As soon, however, as the finances will admit of it these alterations will be carried out.

General Remarks.

Although during the last three years Tobago has been passing through a severe monetary crisis, I have much satisfaction in reporting that I believe that these financial difficulties are now in a fair way of being overcome. The expenditure on account of salaries and rents was reduced during the last two years by about 1,000*l.* per annum, and recent taxation calculated to yield from 1,200*l.* to 1,400*l.* a year has been imposed * and cheerfully submitted to, in order to meet the falling off on the import duties, and to furnish the means of extinguishing the liabilities which, on the 31st of December last, altogether amounted to 4,749*l.*

I much fear, however, that so long as cane cultivation is relied upon as the sole source of profit from the fertile lands of Tobago, so long will the present struggle for existence continue on the part of planters, whether proprietors or lessees of sugar estates.

In my speech at the opening of the legislative session of 1879 I called the attention of the unofficial section of the Council to the great progress which had been made by their sister Colony of Grenada, owing to the increased cultivation of the cocoa tree and the abandonment in many instances of that of the cane plant, whilst at the same time I pointed out how admirably suited to the growth of spice trees and coffee were the gently sloping hill sides of Tobago, whilst its rich valleys, if planted with arrow-root and indigo, would give an unfailing and profitable return to the cultivator.

With a soil and climate such as those of this Colony, there surely ought to be no reason for despondency in contemplating the future prospects of Tobago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS FRED. GORE,
Lieut.-Governor, Tobago.

The Officer Administering the
General Government, Barbados.

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* Irrespective of the additional shilling in the pound voted this year (1880) on the rates on lands and tenements, calculated to give 900*l.*, and of the increase on certain articles of the tariff estimated to yield 600*l.* per annum.

St. Lucia.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 11.

The Officer Administering the Government of the Windward Islands to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Barbados, Aug. 2, 1880.

Forwarded.
(Signed) L. J. Gamble,
Maj.-General, Administrator.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley.

Government Office, Castries,
June 30, 1880.

Sir,

Herewith I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1879, and to submit the following report upon it.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

2. The increased rate of 100*l.* payable for a licence to distil rum imposed by Ordinance No. 8, of 1878, took effect in 1879. The measure proved successful. As was expected, all the small distilleries were closed, and the revenue derived from excise duty on rum increased.

3. With the above exception, the taxes, import, and other duties remained the same as in the year 1878.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The total amount of "General Revenue" for the year was 31,872*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, and the total expenditure was 32,090*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*

5. The following comparative statement shows the general revenue and expenditure in the last five years :—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1875	25,258	25,333
1876	27,441	29,242
1877	28,265	27,964
1878	28,262	32,646
1879	31,872	32,090

6. The large increase in the revenue of 1879 as compared with that of the previous year is attributable in a great measure to the larger amount of rum duties collected.

7. There remained due to "General Revenue" at the close of the year 3,400*l.* of the loan of 4,000*l.* to the "Castries Town Board."

Local Revenues and Expenditure.

8. The amount of revenue on account of the several local or special funds in 1879, was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Casual revenue of the Crown -	268	4	0
Castries Town fund - -	1,859	6	5
Towns' and villages' fund - -	459	11	5
Police and revenue officers reward fund - - - -	128	13	8
Immigration fund - - -	4,315	3	2
Total revenue - - -	7,030	18	8

9. The amount of expenditure was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Casual revenue of the Crown -	17	12	0
Castries Town fund - -	1,612	12	7
Towns' and villages' fund - -	317	13	1
Police and revenue officers reward fund - - - -	Nil.		
Immigration fund - - -	4,002	5	0
Total expenditure - -	5,950	2	8

10. The aggregate amount to the credit of the special funds at the close of the year was 6,614*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

Public Debt.

11. The public debt of the Colony at the close of 1879 was 39,500*l.* It is composed as follows:—

	£
Imperial Guaranteed Immigration Loan -	5,000
Central Sugar Factory Debentures of 100*l.* each remaining undrawn - - - -	28,400
Immigration Debentures of 100*l.* each issued -	6,100
Total - - - -	39,500

12. Ten thousand pounds of the Imperial Guaranteed Immigration Loan was paid off during the year, leaving a balance due of 5,000*l.* as above stated. To meet this there was invested in Reduced 3 per Cents. at the close of the year the sum of 5,327*l.* 4*s.*, which, at the present price of Consols, will be more than sufficient to extinguish the debt.

Public Works.

13. No work of importance was undertaken during the year.

14. The sum of 2,715*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* was expended in the up-keep of the public roads, and the sum of 314*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* in painting the "General Hospital" and in necessary repairs to the other public buildings.

Legislation.

Laws, Proclamations, &c.

15. Seventeen Ordinances were passed in 1879, of which the following are the most important:—

No. 2, 2nd April 1879. "To provide for the appointment of "an Acting Chief Justice in certain cases, and for the holding of "the terms of the Royal Court."

No. 3, 2nd April 1879. "To provide for the performance of "certain Judicial duties, out of term, in the absence of the Chief "Justice or Acting Chief Justice from the Colony."

No. 6, 7th July 1879. "To amend the Steam Navigation Ordi- "nance, 1867."

No. 7, 11th August 1879. "To amend the Crown Lands Ordi- "nance, 1878."

No. 8, 11th August 1879. "To amend the Ordinance No. 1, "of 14th January 1859, 'to constitute a new Board of Educa- "'tion with two distinct Committees, and to regulate the several "'duties of the Board and of its Commissioners.'"

No. 9, 11th August 1879. "To establish a Fire Brigade for the "Town of Castries and its neighbourhood."

No. 10, 29th August 1879. "To amend the Summary Pro- "cedure Ordinance, 1877."

No. 11, 29th August 1879. "To amend the Summary Con- "viction Ordinance, 1877."

No. 13, 20th October 1879. "To substitute the title of Pro- "thonotary for that of Registrar of the Royal Court; and for "other purposes."

No. 14, 20th October 1879. "To substitute the title of Sheriff "for that of Inspector of Revenue and Police, in so far as the "Inspector of Revenue and Police performs the duties formerly "performed by the Provost Marshal; and for other purposes."

No. 15, 17th November 1879. "To make provision for inquiry "into the cause of Wrecks occurring on the Coasts of this Island "or its dependencies."

No. 16, 3rd December 1879. "To consolidate and amend the "laws relating to Civil Procedure."

The Code of Civil Procedure referred to in the last-named Ordinance has been prepared by Chief Justice Armstrong, and is a work of much labour and thought. It is the sister code to the "Civil Code of St. Lucia," which came into force on the 20th of October 1879, and will, when it comes into operation, make that measure complete.

16. Four proclamations were issued during the year. The only one requiring special notice is that directing and ordering that the Civil Code of Saint Lucia shall come into force and become law on the 20th day of October 1879.

17. This valuable code has placed the law of the Colony in civil matters on a sure and solid foundation, and has for ever set at rest the conflict of French and English law which before existed. It is a clear, concise, and comprehensive work, and has received the unqualified approval of Her Majesty's Government. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, in conveying Her Majesty's gracious approval of the code added, "and I have to express my congratulation to the "Colony of St. Lucia upon the achievement of so important a "work."

Civil Establishment.

18. Captain Havelock continued to administer the Government until the 29th of August 1879, when he was appointed to the office of Chief Civil Commissioner of the Seychelles Islands, and on his leaviug the Colony I was again appointed to administer the Government, and continued in office during the remainder of the year.

19. On the assumption of the Government by me, Mr. Lynch was again appointed to act as treasurer, and Mr. Thomas Dix again took charge of the third judicial district in conjunction with his own district.

20. Mr. William Duncan was appointed Colonial Assistant-Surgeon in the room of Dr. Dalton, and entered upon his duties on the 3rd February 1879. Mr. Frank J. Peter resigned the office of Harbour-master on the 19th November 1879, and Mr. George Price was appointed in his stead. Mr. Ovid Langellier, Keeper of the Royal Gaol, died on the 29th November 1879, and Sergeant-Major Hampson was appointed to the place.

Population and Vital Statistics.

21. The following information is obtained from the Returns of the Registrar of Civil Status.

22. During the year, 1,587 births and 1,101 deaths were registered. Both figures include 93 still-births. The natural increase of the population was 486, which, added to 221 coolies introduced during the year, raised the population to a total of 37,250 souls on the 31st December 1879.

23. Excluding the still-births, the birth-rate per cent. of the population was 4·09, and the death-rate 2·76. The still-births represent 6·22 per cent. of the live births. Of the total number of still-births, 24 were legitimate and 69 illegitimate.

24. The number of male births was 834 and the number of female births 753. The legitimate births numbered 598, and the illegitimate 989.

25. Of the total number of deaths, 581 were males, and 520 were females.

ST. LUCIA.

26. The following statement shows the deaths at different stages of life:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	177	141	318
From 1 to 5 years	111	139	250
„ 5 „ 10 „	23	17	40
„ 10 „ 15 „	13	14	27
„ 15 „ 20 „	13	8	21
„ 20 „ 30 „	44	33	77
„ 30 „ 40 „	38	33	71
„ 40 „ 50 „	49	35	84
„ 50 „ 60 „	29	27	56
60 years and upwards	84	73	157
	581	520	1,101

27. The following table gives the causes to which the different deaths are ascribed:—

Causes of Deaths.	Under One Year.		From One to Fifteen Years.		Fifteen Years and upwards.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Zymotic diseases	46	30	51	66	37	32	262
Sporadic diseases:—							
Of uncertain or variable seat	17	8	26	19	41	31	142
Of the nervous system	30	21	43	53	20	6	173
Of the organs of circulation	—	—	—	1	13	5	19
Of the respiratory organs	9	9	8	12	59	50	147
Of the digestive organs	1	4	2	2	10	4	23
Of the urinary organs	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Rheumatism and other diseases of the joints, bones, and ligaments	—	—	—	—	4	5	9
Elephantiasis, yaws, and other diseases of the integumentary system	—	—	1	2	9	5	17
Childbirth—diseases of the womb, &c.	—	—	—	1	—	22	23
Premature birth and debility	17	20	2	4	—	—	43
Age	—	—	—	—	32	37	69
Malformations	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Intemperance	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Deaths by violence and accidents	—	1	8	4	9	4	26
Bitten by serpents	—	1	1	—	9	3	14
Stung by scorpions	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Still-births	51	42	—	—	—	—	93
Unknown and unassigned	6	3	5	5	8	4	31
Total	177	141	147	170	257	209	1,101

28. The following table shows the birth and death rates, including still-births, from 1869, the year in which the system of registration of births and deaths came into operation, to 1879;—

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1869 -	30,275	1,359	834	4·49	2·75
1870 -	30,800	1,418	817	4·60	2·65
1871 -	31,401	1,479	901	4·71	2·87
1872 -	31,970	1,511	880	4·72	2·75
1873 -	32,601	1,519	948	4·66	2·90
1874 -	33,172	1,504	1,046	4·53	3·15
1875 -	33,630	1,519	928	4·52	2·76
1876 -	34,221	1,577	950	4·61	2·77
1877 -	34,848	1,575	949	4·52	2·72
1878 -	35,474	1,527	1,038	4·30	2·93
1879 -	36,543	1,587	1,101	4·34	3·01

29. The death of 81 children from hooping-cough in 1879 will account for the death-rate in that year being in excess of the average death-rate of previous years.

30. The number of marriages registered in 1879 was 244, as against 130 in the previous year.

31. By the new civil code a marriage celebrated by a status officer is made legal, and conveys all civil rights. It is, however, permissive, not compulsory, as in the neighbouring French Islands.

32. No such marriage was celebrated in 1879.

Savings Bank.

33. The total number of depositors at the close of the year was 165, and the amount in deposit 274*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* The amount deposited during the year was 276*l.* 6*s.*, and the amount withdrawn 258*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

Ecclesiastical.

34. No change has been made in this establishment. Of the Legislative vote of 1,500*l.*, the Roman Catholic clergy receive 1,100*l.*, and the Protestant clergy 400*l.*, as heretofore.

Education.

35. The trustees of the Lady Mico Charity having notified their intention to close their schools in St. Lucia on the 30th of June 1879, an arrangement was entered into between the Government and the trustees, by which the Government undertook the management and support of the schools at the seven principal stations in the Island, the trustees on their part contributing the annual sum of 220*l.* towards the support of the schools, and, in addition, the sum of 20*l.* per annum towards the expense attendant upon the annual inspection of the schools, and further handing over to the Government, free of rent, the whole of their school premises in Castries, Gros Islet, Sonfrière, Rivière Dorée, Laborie, Vieuxfort, and Micored.

36. The trustees, in entering into this arrangement, reserved to themselves the right to veto the appointment of the members

ST. LUCIA.

of the committee of management of the schools, and also the appointment and dismissal of the teachers, and stipulated "that the "Bible must be read in the schools daily, and religious instruc- "tion given in an unsectarian manner."

37. The arrangements are terminable by twelve months' notice on either side.

38. In consequence of the withdrawal of so large a sum as was formerly contributed towards the education of the people of St. Lucia by the trustees of the Mico Charity, and the Colony not being in a position to increase the amount of the Legislative grant for that purpose, it became necessary to devise some means by which the schools could be kept open and maintained at their former efficiency.

39. An Ordinance was accordingly passed, No. 8 of 1879, by which each child attending any school of primary education, either maintained by, or receiving aid from, public funds, is required to pay a school fee of not less than 1*d.* per week, and not exceeding 3*d.* per week, such fee to be charged for any portion of a week as for a complete week.

40. The measure has up to the present time worked well, and, with the amount of the Government grant and the contribution from the Mico Charity, a sufficient sum has been raised for school fees to maintain the schools upon their former footing.

41. The law with regard to school fees applies to the schools under the management of the Roman Catholic Committee of the Board of Education, as well as to those under the control of the Protestant Committee.

42. The Government grant of 1,150*l.* in aid of education was, as before, equally divided between the committees.

43. The following statement shows the number of pupils on the rolls of the several schools receiving Government aid under the new system, the average attendance, and the amount of school fees received at each school during the half year ended 31st December 1879:—

Name of Schools.	Number of Pupils on the Rolls.			Average Attendance.	Amount of School Fees received.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
MICO SCHOOLS.					£ s. d.
Castries - - -	138	37	175	127·3	15 4 4
Gros Islet - - -	60	28	88	54·7	6 5 5
Soufrière - - -	137	8	145	90·0	14 2 1
Rivière Dorée - -	86	48	134	83·1	9 5 2
Laborie - - -	95	48	143	73·4	8 10 6
Vieuxfort - - -	73	65	138	68·4	7 17 7
Micored - - -	59	24	83	48·0	6 0 5
Total - -	648	258	906	544·9	67 5 6

Name of Schools.	Number of Pupils on the Rolls.			Average Attendance.	Amount of School Fees received.
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.					£ s. d.
Castries (Convent) - -	—	355	355	311·2	18 12 7
Do. (Juvenile and Infant)	313	—	313	116·1	13 13 2
Soufrière (Convent) - -	15	312	327	167·1	14 1 7
Dennery - - -	58	33	91	45·9	3 19 1
Ansela Raye and Canaries -	59	58	117	55·0	2 15 11
Laborie - - -	—	76	76	66·3	3 6 3
Total - -	445	834	1,279	761·6	56 8 7

44. The number of pupils on the rolls and the average attendance at the several schools during the first six months of 1879 were very much the same as in the corresponding period of the previous year.

45. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny continue to keep their private school for girls. It is well conducted, and does great credit to the ladies of the convent.

Trade.

46. The following statement exhibits the value of the imports and exports for the last three years:—

——	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1877 - -	110,588	178,734
1878 - -	108,264	151,464
1879 - -	110,472	210,894

47. The following are the values of the imports and exports from and to the several countries with which trade has been carried on during the year:—

——	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	43,258	186,236
British Colonies - - - -	21,587	2,183
Foreign countries - - - -	45,627	22,475
Total - - -	110,472	210,894

Shipping.

48. The following statements show the number, tonnage, and crews of sailing vessels and steam ships entered and cleared at the port of Castries in the last three years:—

Sailing Vessels.

	Entered.			Cleared.		
	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1877 -	336	17,299	1,562	341	17,115	1,698
1878 -	351	21,119	1,633	353	20,671	1,609
1879 -	283	21,251	1,536	286	20,910	1,667

Steam Ships.

	Entered.			Cleared.		
	No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
1877 -	Not recorded.			Not recorded.		
1878 -	25	25,726	1,444	25	25,726	1,444
1879 -	107	140,703	3,250	107	140,703	3,250

49. It having been found that a large quantity of goods were being imported into, and exported from, the Island in the mail steamers to the exclusion of sailing vessels, it became necessary in order to show correctly the trade of the Colony that the tonnage of the steamers should be included in the shipping records. The record was commenced in 1878.

50. Besides the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and of the French Transatlantic Company, the steamers of the Quebec S.S. Company and the Direct Line Company now call regularly at the port. By the "Quebec" line goods are brought from and taken to the United States, and by the "Direct" line from and to London.

51. The accession of the two new lines of steamers will account for the large increase of steam tonnage in 1879 as compared with the previous year.

Agriculture.

52. The following statement shows the quantities of the staple products of the Colony exported in the last three years :—

	1877.	1878.	1879.
Sugar:			
Muscovado - - lbs.	10,772,500	11,385,450	14,705,600
Usine - - - „	1,624,080	1,281,400	1,987,510
Molasses - - galls.	155,800	146,500	292,000
Rum - - - „	25,678	15,825	7,506
Cocoa - - - lbs.	266,818	324,872	448,317

Gaols and Prisoners.

53. The number of persons committed to prison in 1879 was 398. Of these, there were two for debt, 127 for safe custody till trial or for want of security, and 269 for purposes of penal imprisonment, of which number 189 were men and 80 were women.

54. Of the number of persons committed to penal imprisonment, 1 was for life, 7 for periods between one and five years, 17 between three months and one year, and 244 for three months or less.

Criminal Statistics.

55. The following comparative table shows the number and description of offences, and the number of apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals in the years 1877, 1878, and 1879:—

—	1877.	1878.	1879.
Number of persons apprehended	1,865	2,052	2,058
Number of summary convictions:—			
1. Offences against the person	245	239	286
2. Prædial larceny	72	75	38
3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny	64	81	61
4. For other offences	397	543	554
Number of convictions in the superior courts:—			
1. Offences against the person	5	2	5
2. Prædial larceny	—	—	—
3. Offences against property other than prædial larceny	27	28	9
4. For other offences	7	2	7
Number of persons acquitted:—			
1. In the inferior courts	1,047	1,097	1,102
2. In the superior courts	21	11	9

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

56. The number of patients in the general hospital at the beginning of the year was 81; the number admitted during the year was 1,032, of whom 540 were indentured Indian immigrants. The daily average in hospital was 74. The number of deaths was 37. The number discharged cured was 853. The number relieved, 108, and the number not improved, 44. The number remaining in hospital at the close of the year was 67.

57. The number of patients in the asylum for incurables at the beginning of the year was 47; the number admitted during the year was 107. There were 43 deaths. 57 left the asylum voluntarily, their condition being considerably improved; 6 were transferred to other institutions, and there were 48 remaining in the asylum at the end of the year.

58. The majority of the people admitted into this institution are in the last stages of disease and debility, and many die shortly after their admission. Of the 43 deaths, 18 died within three days, and 12 more within one month.

ST. LUCIA.

59. The number of patients admitted into the auxiliary hospitals at Soufrière and Vieuxfort during the year was 987, of whom 845 were indentured Indian immigrants. There were 11 deaths. 867 were discharged cured and 82 uncured. The number remaining in the two hospitals at the end of the year was 27.

60. The number of persons treated at the nine dispensaries in 1879 was 2,712.

61. There were 2,229 successful vaccinations performed during the year, a very much larger number than in any previous year. The total number of successful cases in the eight years in which the compulsory vaccination Ordinance has been in operation was 7,509.

Lunatic Asylum.

62. At the beginning of the year there were 16 persons in the asylum, 6 males and 10 females, one of the females was a coolie, and 9 were admitted during the year. There were 2 deaths; 5 were discharged cured, 1 escaped, and 1, an imbecile and paralytic, was sent to the asylum for incurables. The number in the asylum at the close of the year was 16.

63. The wards appropriated to the inmates and the surroundings of the asylum were kept in a clean and creditable state. Everything that circumstances would permit was done to make the unfortunates comfortable. Very few of them require to be placed under restraint of any kind.

General Remarks.

64. The material prosperity of the Colony continues to increase. With the exception of the year 1875, the largest crop of muscovado sugar on record was made in 1879. The quantity exported was equal to 11,273 hogsheads.

65. The crop of the central sugar factory was also the largest since it commenced operations in 1876. The quantity of crystallised sugar made was upwards of 870 tons.

66. No crystallised sugar was made in 1875. Taken altogether, the sugar crop of 1879 was therefore the largest ever made in the Island.

67. Unfortunately the prices for produce in the home market during a large portion of the year were so low that the planters did not derive that benefit which they very naturally expected from their large crops.

68. The port of Castries has become a coaling station, not only for the steamers of the Royal Mail Company, but also for the steamers of the "Quebec" and "Direct" lines. A large quantity of coals is always kept on hand at the different coal yards. The coaling of the ships gives employment to a large number of labourers, chiefly women, who are well remunerated for their services.

69. The heaviest rainfall in the Island in the memory of the oldest inhabitant occurred in the month of November, it reached 25 inches and 70 parts. On the 24th of the month the fall wa 9 inches and 6 parts.

70. With the exception of a rather sharp epidemic of hooping-cough in the early part of the year, the health of the Island was good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MACNAMARA DIX,
Administering the Government.

His Excellency Major-General Gamble, C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
MY LORD, August 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Antigua for 1879, together with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley, Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of ANTIGUA for the year 1879.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The total revenue for 1879 was 41,084*l.*, against 37,662*l.* in the previous year, the principal increase being under the head of customs.

2. The gross expenditure was 35,350*l.*, against 35,809*l.* in 1878.

3. Inclusive of a balance of 3,384*l.* 13*s.* from 1878 the excess of revenue over expenditure was 8,344*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

4. A statement of the assets and liabilties of the Presidency on the 31st December 1879 is subjoined.

Assets.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Waterworks sinking fund -	20,931	13	0
In hands of Crown agents - -	497	13	10
Escheated estates - - -	29	6	5½
Unrepresented estates - - -		18	4
Due by other Presidencies - -	233	15	1
Cash in Colonial bank - - -	7,846	17	7½
	29.540	4	4

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.
Holders of local loan debentures -	10,100	0	0
Holders of waterworks debentures -	32,500	0	0
Savings bank - - - -	8,890	15	1
Immigration loan - - -	7,020	0	0
Immigration current account - -	2,536	0	10½
Police reward fund - - -	240	1	3
Island of Barbuda - - -	823	3	2
Ecclesiastical tax - - -	183	3	11
	62,293	4	3½

5. The customs duties which only realised 18,104*l.* in 1874 amounted in 1879 to no less than 27,406*l.*, or an increase of upwards of 50 per cent. The other heads of revenue also showed a considerable increase.

6. The condition of the finances under the new system of Government contrasts most favourably with that existing under the former constitution. In 1865, under the Administrative Committee system, the excess of expenditure over revenue was 11,654*l.* which had to be met by imposing additional taxation. In 1867 the revenue was short of the expenditure by nearly 15,000*l.*

7. Notwithstanding the reductions made in the taxation of the Island since 1872 the revenue is in a position to meet all claims upon it and to exhibit a comparatively large balance at the close of the year.

8. The duty on articles of food amounted in the year to 9,933*l.*, or 24 per cent. of the total revenue, on wines, beer, spirits, &c., to 2,194*l.*, or 5⅓ per cent., on tobacco to 1,370*l.*, or 3⅓ per cent. The excise duty on rum which is levied at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* per proof gallon realised 4,138*l.*, representing an average consumption of 35,106 gallons, or at the rate of little more than one gallon per head of the population.

Public Works.

9. The amount expended on roads was 3,092*l.* and on the repair and maintenance of the public buildings 1,116*l.*

Militia.

10. The cost of supporting the yeomanry cavalry was 329*l.*

Legislation.

11. Five Acts were passed in 1879 by the General Legislature of the Colony, viz :—

(1.) An Act to transfer the business of the Circuit Court of the Island of Anguilla to St. Christopher.

(2.) An Act for compiling and printing a new edition of the Acts of the General Legislature of the Leeward Islands.

(3.) An Act to continue Act No. 2 of 1874 entitled "An Act to "regulate the grant of Aid to Elementary Schools," and Act No. 20 of 1876 entitled "An Act to amend an Act to regulate the "grant of Aid to Elementary Schools."

(4.) An Act to make further provisions for the Service of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1879.

(5.) An Act to provide for the Service of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1880.

12. The most important of the 17 Acts passed by the Legislature of the Presidency are the following:—

(1.) An Act for compiling and printing a new edition of the Acts of the Legislature of Antigua.

(2.) An Act to prevent the unauthorised Exportation of Immigrants from this Island.

(3.) An Act for further promoting the revision of Statute Law by repealing certain Acts which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary.

(4.) An Act for regulating the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors.

(6.) An Act to provide for the purchase of certain Land immediately to the East of Government House.

(7.) An Act to declare the Boundaries of the Government Land to the East of the City of St. John's and to provide for the regulation of the same.

(9.) An Act to amend an Act, No. 8 of 1875, entitled "An Act "to repeal the Laws relating to Pilotage and to make other "provisions in lieu thereof."

(10.) An Act to authorise the General Legislature to pass Laws relating to Aliens, Friendly Societies, and Commissions of Inquiry.

(15.) An Act to amend the Law relating to Practitioners and Vendors of Medicines.

Population.

13. The usual returns relating to the vital statistics of the Island have not up to this moment been received from the Registrar General.

Savings Bank.

14. The growing importance of this institution is shown in the following return:—

	£	s.	d.
Total deposits 1875 - -	12,907	10	2
„ 1876 - -	11,606	17	5
„ 1877 - -	13,479	10	2
„ 1878 - -	16,194	13	8
„ 1879 - -	19,507	4	7

ANTIGUA.

15. The position of the bank on the 31st December was as follows:—

BALANCE SHEET to 31st December 1879.

Dr.										Cr.		
			£			£				£	s.	d.
	190	depositors of			less than	1	-	-		58	3	2
	268	„	1	and	„	5	-	-		669	15	4
	116	„	5	„	„	10	-	-		819	11	6
	93	„	10	„	„	20	-	-		1,249	7	11
	39	„	20	„	„	30	-	-		913	14	6
	36	„	30	„	„	40	-	-		1,222	13	10
	12	„	40	„	„	50	-	-		519	1	3
	12	„	50	„	„	60	-	-		659	0	3
	10	„	60	„	„	70	-	-		640	13	7
	6	„	70	„	„	80	-	-		444	4	1
	10	„	80	„	„	90	-	-		851	11	4
	4	„	90	„	„	100	-	-		373	13	6
	57	„	100	„	upwards	-	-	-		11,085	14	4
	853											
			Drs.									
£ s. d.												
8,890 15 1	Treasury of Antigua.											
10,600 0 0	Deposits at interest.											
16 9 6	Cash on current account.											
19,507 4 7										19,507	4	7

Abstract of the Transactions for the Year 1879.

	Received from.			Paid to.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash balance on 1st January -	103	3	5	—		
Deposits at interest - -	200	0	0	3,600	0	0
Expenses - - - -	0	1	6	112	15	0
Interest - - - -	229	7	7	510	18	8
Treasury of Antigua (for interest) -	394	19	9	—		
Depositors - - - -	8,997	10	0	5,684	19	1
Cash balance 31st December -	—			16	9	6
	9,925	2	3	9,925	2	3

Education.

16. The usual annual report of the inspector of schools is appended.

Imports and Exports.

17. The value of imports from 1874 to 1879 is as follows:—

	£
1874 - - -	146,758
1875 - - -	180,863
1876 - - -	140,035
1877 - - -	170,693
1878 - - -	183,795
1879 - - -	161,543

In transmitting the import returns for 1879 the treasurer remarks "you will see that the total imports for 1879 are valued "at 161,543*l.* against a value in 1878 of 183,795*l.*, an apparent "falling off of 22,252*l.*; yet the amount of import duty is about "2,500*l.* more than in 1878. The explanation of this is that I "found the official values used in 1878 were too high, some being "50 per cent. in excess and some double the real value. These "I have re-arranged and reduced from actual invoices. Thus "biscuits were valued at 1*l.* per 100 lbs. reduced 10*s.*; butter "from 1*s.* per lb. to 7*d.*; meal from 1*l.* per barrel to 11*s.*; while "many more were altered though in smaller proportion."

18. The value of the exports for each of the years from 1874 to 1879 is as follows:—

	£
1874 - - -	106,705
1875 - - -	249,677
1876 - - -	143,236
1877 - - -	210,365
1878 - - -	201,176
1879 - - -	267,153

19. The quantity of sugar, rum, and molasses, exported in each of the last six years is as follows:—

Year.	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.
	Hhds.	Puns.	Puns.
1874 - - -	6,132	418	1,735
1875 - - -	14,667	692	7,391
1876 - - -	8,330	305	3,507
1877 - - -	10,009	210	4,690
1878 - - -	10,745	209	5,363
1879 - - -	14,730	211	7,159

Shipping.

20. The following is a comparative return of shipping from 1874 to 1879:—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1874 - -	384	23,862	390	22,788
1875 - -	403	30,531	399	30,046
1876 - -	342	23,004	351	22,363
1877 - -	356	25,511	362	25,794
1878 - -	370	29,757	371	29,058
1879 { sailing vessels -	359	32,784	357	32,035
1879 { steamers -	65	62,243	65	62,243

21. The return includes for the first time all steam ships arriving here with cargo.

ANTIGUA.

22. There are now three lines of steamers running to the port of St. John's.

23. The direction and value of trade is shown below:—

Counties.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
United Kingdom - -	83,579	164,371
British Colonies - -	29,077	17,798
United States - -	46,685	83,343
Other countries - -	2,250	1,640

Crime.

24. The total number of commitments to goal during the year was 450, against 592 in the preceding year, and the daily average number in gaol was 97, against 104 in 1878.

25. The Antigua gaol is now being used to a limited extent as a common prison for male convicts from the other Islands of the Government.

26. Of the 96 prisoners in gaol on the 31st December, 23 were from the other Islands.

General.

27. The returns composing the Blue Book for 1879 show that there has been a marked improvement in the financial, commercial, and agricultural affairs of the Island. The finances are in a far more healthy state than they have been for the last 20 years. The opening of new shops and stores, the increased value of imports and exports, and the larger tonnage entering the ports, testify to the improved condition of the commerce of the Island. The quantity of sugar exported was 14,730 hogsheads, against 10,745 in 1878 and 10,009 in 1877. In 1874 and 1876 the exports were respectively 6,132 and 8,330. The export of sugar in 1875 was 14,677 hogsheads, or very nearly the same as in 1879.

28 The conduct of the people has been good and there has been a great diminution in crime. Labourers can now find abundant employment at profitable wages.

29. A few cases of yellow fever appeared during the latter part of the year, Dr. Edwards, the Senior Medical Officer, reports that eight cases came under his observation at that period, all of which proved fatal. Five newly arrived Europeans fell victims to the disease. The disease did not however assume an epidemic form, and the health of the Island with this exception was satisfactory.

(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
9th August 1880.

ANTIGUA.

REPORT of the INSPECTOR-GENERAL of SCHOOLS in the LEEWARD ISLANDS for 1879.

SIR, Antigua, December 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my report for the year 1879 on the elementary schools of the Leeward Islands, which are aided or entirely supported by the Government. This constitutes the fifth annual report since the coming into operation of the Education Act of 1874.

2. There are added to this report, in Appendix A., duplicates of the statements of accounts for the year 1879 of schools in the Leeward Islands in the receipt of Government aid as the result of examination, which statements of accounts have been already transmitted to the presidents of the several Islands comprising this Colony; and in Appendix B. the names of schools which have been struck off the Government list or to which grants in aid have been refused, and the reason for such refusal.

3. I have again the pleasure to report that during the past year steady progress has been made in elementary education throughout the Colony.

4. The number of scholars in daily average attendance has increased, and satisfactory progress has been made in their attainments in every Presidency of the Colony without exception.

5. This may be seen from the followiug tabulated statements, which I have carefully compiled:—

TABLE I.

Presidency.	1878.		1879.	
	Number of Schools.	Daily average Attendance.	Number of Schools.	Daily average Attendance.
Antigua - -	38	2,063	38	2,136
St. Kitt's - -	25	1,537	25	1,628
Dominica - -	24	1,171	24	1,205
Montserrat - -	11	533	11	579
Nevis - - -	9	534	10	643
Virgin Islands -	11	341	11	347
Totals -	118	6,179	119	6,538

6. From the above we gather that during the past year—

A. Two new schools have been placed on the Government list. For, of the 118 schools receiving aid at the beginning of 1878, one was struck off, leaving 117 on the list at the end of that year. *Vide* my Report for 1878, Appendix C.

The two new schools are St. James', Anglican, in Antigua, and Brown Hill, Wesleyan, in the Presidency of Nevis.

B. There has been a general increase throughout the Colony in the number of scholars in daily average attendance.

ANTIGUA.

C. In 1879 there were 359 children *more* in daily average attendance than in the preceding year 1878.

D. There has been an increase in the number of scholars in daily average attendance in every Presidency of the Colony without any exception.

E. The *increase* in the number of scholars in daily average attendance in the schools in the small island of Nevis amounts to no less than 109.

F. No reference is here made to the number of names of scholars on the books, or even to the number of scholars present on the day of examination.

7. I here insert a table of the schools of the Colony in general, classified according to the Government standards.

TABLE II.

Year.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Failed.	Total.
1875 -	3	8	33	81	125
1876 -	5	12	45	42	104
1877 -	7	19	48	37	111
1878 -	9	24	53	32	118
1879 -	13	25	52	29	119

8. As Table I. shows that there has been a most satisfactory increase in the number of scholars in daily average attendance, so it may be seen from Table II. that the schools of the Colony in general are making steady and continued progress.

9. Thus it may be seen that out of 119 schools which are aided or supported by the Government, 90 have obtained places in the class list, or over 75 per cent.

10. Of the 29 schools which failed to attain to the required standard no less than 18 are in the Presidencies of Dominica and the Virgin Islands.

11. In Dominica, however, the schools have *greatly* increased, and are still increasing, both in efficiency and in the number of scholars in daily average attendance, in proof of which I subjoin the following tabulated statement, which speaks for itself:—

Presidency of Dominica.	Number of Schools.	Daily average Attendance.	Number of Schools classed.	Number of Schools failed.
1875 - -	23	600	8	15
1879 - -	24	1,205	15	9

12. Here we may note that the number of children attending school regularly has more than doubled itself since 1875, whilst the number of schools which passed a favourable examination has increased from eight in 1875 to 15 in 1879.

ANTIGUA.

13. I have found on inquiry that the payment of school fees (in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act) is strictly enforced in every school of the Colony, except in the Victoria Orphanage (Roman Catholic) in Roseau, Dominica, in which excellent institution some 65 girls are fed, clothed, boarded, and educated free of charge. The reason, therefore, for the exception in this case is obvious.

14. At my request the managers of the various schools of the Colony have forwarded me returns, showing the amount of school fees received by them quarterly, and the total amount collected during the year.

15. I insert a few of the highest amounts:

Name of School.	Denomination.	Presidency.	School Fees.
			£ s. d.
Roseau, boys - -	Government -	Dominica - -	41 3 5
Spring Gardens -	Moravian - -	Antigua - -	27 0 3
Charlestown - -	Wesleyan - -	Nevis - -	25 11 8
Basseterre - -	Moravian - -	St. Kitt's - -	24 7 7
Gingerland - -	Wesleyan - -	Nevis - -	20 19 8

16. It should be mentioned that of the above-mentioned schools the first four are situate in towns. The greatest credit is therefore due to Gingerland School, which is located in the country, where school fees are always collected with somewhat greater difficulty than in the towns.

17. In concluding my report, I repeat that I have great pleasure in being able to report so favourably of the state of elementary education in this Colony for the year 1879.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
Inspector-General of Schools for the
Leeward Islands.

His Honour E. D. Baynes, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX A.—STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1879 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of ANTIGUA in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned. Class Grant.	Aid earned. Capitation Grant.	Aid earned. Total.	Advances for First Three Quarters of 1879.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1879.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1880.	Remarks.
		Mixed				£ s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	Gracefield		Moravian	I.	80	20 0	24 0 0	44 0 0	32 11 0	11 9 0	11 0 0	
2	Spring Gardens	„	„	„	158	20 0	47 8 0	67 8 0	46 19 0	20 9 0	16 17 0	
3	Gracehill	„	„	„	68	20 0	20 8 0	40 8 0	31 8 6	8 19 6	10 2 0	
4	The Mico	„	Undenominational	„	78	20 0	23 8 0	43 8 0	42 13 6	0 14 6	10 17 0	
5	Greenbay	„	Moravian	„	100	20 0	30 0 0	50 0 0	38 12 6	11 7 6	12 10 0	
6	Lebanon	„	„	II.	65	15 0	16 5 0	31 5 0	23 12 6	7 12 6	7 16 3	
7	Newfield	„	„	„	48	15 0	12 0 0	27 0 0	21 15 0	5 5 0	6 15 0	
8	Ebenezer	„	Wesleyan	„	76	15 0	19 0 0	34 0 0	20 1 3	13 18 9	8 10 0	
9	Sweets	„	Moravian	„	64	15 0	16 0 0	31 0 0	23 12 6	7 7 6	7 15 0	
10	Freetown	„	Wesleyan	„	71	15 0	17 15 0	32 15 0	23 16 3	8 18 9	8 3 9	
11	St. Mark's	„	Anglican	„	115	15 0	28 15 0	43 15 0	31 17 6	11 17 6	10 18 9	
12	Cathedral	„	„	„	57	15 0	14 5 0	29 5 0	13 10 0	15 15 0	7 6 3	Advanced from Class III.
13	Cedar Hall	„	Moravian	„	70	15 0	17 10 0	32 10 0	23 12 6	8 17 6	8 2 6	
14	Otto's	„	Wesleyan	„	69	15 0	17 5 0	32 5 0	15 15 0	16 10 0	8 1 3	Advanced from Class III.
15	St. George's	„	Anglican	III.	36	10 0	7 4 0	17 4 0	12 3 0	5 1 0	4 6 0	
16	Bethesda	„	Wesleyan	„	59	10 0	11 16 0	21 16 0	16 1 0	5 15 0	5 9 0	
17	Five Islands	„	Moravian	„	25	10 0	5 0 0	15 0 0	10 19 0	4 1 0	3 15 0	
18	Parham	„	Wesleyan	„	46	10 0	9 4 0	19 4 0	14 11 0	4 13 0	4 16 0	
19	All Saints'	„	Anglican	„	55	10 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	16 7 0	4 13 0	5 5 0	
20	St. Peter's	„	„	„	53	10 0	10 12 0	20 12 0	15 15 0	4 17 0	5 3 0	
21	Farr's Hill	„	„	„	47	10 0	9 8 0	19 8 0	15 0 0	4 8 0	4 17 0	
22	Buckleys	„	„	„	40	10 0	8 0 0	18 0 0	12 18 0	5 2 0	4 10 0	
23	English Harbour	„	Wesleyan	„	40	10 0	8 0 0	18 0 0	13 1 0	4 19 0	4 10 0	
24	Seaton's	„	„	„	57	10 0	11 8 0	21 8 0	16 13 0	4 15 0	5 7 0	
25	Johnson's Point	„	Moravian	„	28	10 0	5 12 0	15 12 0	5 12 6	9 19 6	3 18 0	Advanced from Failed List.
26	St. Stephen's	„	Anglican	„	32	10 0	6 8 0	16 8 0	12 18 0	3 10 0	4 2 0	
27	Gracebay	„	Moravian	„	41	10 0	8 4 0	18 4 0	13 10 0	4 14 0	4 11 0	
28	St. James'	„	Anglican	„	42	10 0	8 8 0	18 8 0	—	18 8 0	4 12 0	A new school.
29	Freemanville	„	Wesleyan	„	47	10 0	9 8 0	19 8 0	13 10 0	5 18 0	4 17 0	
30	Valley Church	„	Anglican	„	41	10 0	8 4 0	18 4 0	12 6 0	5 18 0	4 11 0	
31	Point Chapel	„	„	„	41	10 0	8 4 0	18 4 0	13 4 0	5 0 0	4 11 0	
32	St. Luke's	„	„	„	34	10 0	6 16 0	16 16 0	10 16 0	6 0 0	4 4 0	
33	Potter's	„	Moravian	„	25	10 0	5 0 0	15 0 0	11 2 0	3 18 0	3 15 0	
34	St. Augustine's	„	Anglican	„	26	10 0	5 4 0	15 4 0	12 3 0	3 1 0	3 16 0	
35	St. Paul's	„	„	„	34	10 0	6 16 0	16 16 0	13 1 0	3 15 0	4 4 0	
36	St. John's	„	Roman Catholic	Failed, but recomd.	25	3 15	1 17 6	5 12 6	5 12 6	—	—	School closed 30th September 1879.
37	Bolan's	„	Wesleyan	Failed, but recomd.	25	5 0	2 10 0	7 10 0	7 16 0	—	1 17 6	Lost its place in Class III., overpaid 6s.
38	Holy Trinity, Barbuda	„	Anglican	III.	118	—	—	—	—	—	—	Special Grant from Barbuda Fund.
38	Totals	-	-	-	2,136	453 15	478 2 6	931 17 6	664 16 0	267 7 6	231 11 3	

December 1879.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1879 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of ST. KITT'S in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1879.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1879.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1880.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	Basseterre	Mixed	Moravian	I.	113	20	33 18 0	53 18 0	38 3 6	15 14 6	13 9 6	
2	"	"	Wesleyan	"	98	20	29 8 0	49 8 0	34 11 6	14 16 6	12 7 0	
3	Old Road	"	"	"	87	20	26 2 0	46 2 0	21 3 9	24 18 3	11 10 6	Advanced from Class II.
4	Bethel	"	Moravian	II.	74	15	18 10 0	33 10 0	22 6 3	11 3 9	8 7 6	
5	Estridge's	"	"	"	56	15	14 0 0	29 0 0	20 16 3	8 3 9	7 5 0	
6	St. George's	"	Anglican	"	55	15	13 15 0	28 15 0	22 2 6	6 12 6	7 3 9	
7	Bethesda	"	Moravian	"	86	15	21 10 0	36 10 0	27 15 0	8 15 0	9 2 6	
8	St. Mary's	"	Anglican	"	80	15	20 0 0	35 0 0	24 18 9	10 1 3	8 15 0	
9	Old Road	"	"	"	74	15	18 10 0	33 10 0	22 2 6	11 7 6	8 7 6	
10	St. Ann's	"	"	"	67	15	16 15 0	31 15 0	20 12 6	11 2 6	7 18 9	
11	Halfway Tree	"	Wesleyan	"	51	15	12 15 0	27 15 0	19 17 6	7 17 6	6 18 9	
12	Tabernacle	"	"	"	59	15	14 15 0	29 15 0	17 2 0	12 13 0	7 8 9	Advanced from Class III.
13	St. Peter's	"	Anglican	III.	54	10	10 16 0	20 16 0	15 18 0	4 18 0	5 4 0	
14	Sandy Point	"	Wesleyan	"	42	10	8 8 0	18 8 0	13 16 0	4 12 0	4 12 0	
15	Christ Church	"	Anglican	"	56	10	11 4 0	21 4 0	16 13 0	4 11 0	5 6 0	
16	St. Paul's	"	"	"	69	10	13 16 0	23 16 0	15 12 0	8 4 0	5 19 0	
17	"	"	Wesleyan	"	57	10	11 8 0	21 8 0	14 5 0	7 3 0	5 7 0	
18	St. Thomas	"	Anglican	"	61	10	12 4 0	22 4 0	16 10 0	5 14 0	5 11 0	
19	Dieppe Bay	"	Wesleyan	"	91	10	18 4 0	28 4 0	23 8 0	4 16 0	7 1 0	
20	Trinity Church	"	Anglican	"	64	10	12 16 0	22 16 0	17 5 0	5 11 0	5 14 0	
21	St. John's	"	"	"	56	10	11 4 0	21 4 0	8 0 6	13 3 6	5 6 0	Advanced from Failed List.
22	Palmetto Point	"	Wesleyan	Failed, but recommended	34	5	3 8 0	8 8 0	9 6 0	—	2 2 0	Overpaid 18s., lost its place in Class III.
23	Cayon	"	"		27	5	2 14 0	7 14 0	6 3 0	1 11 0	1 18 6	
24	New Town	"	Moravian		67	5	6 14 0	11 14 0	8 14 0	3 0 0	2 18 6	
25	Irish Town	"	"		50	5	5 0 0	10 0 0	8 5 0	1 15 0	2 10 0	
25	Totals	-	-	-	1,628	305	367 14 0	672 14 0	465 7 6	208 4 6	168 3 6	

December 1879.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1879 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of DOMINICA in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1879.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1879.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1880.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	Roseau	Boys'	Government	I.	77	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1	Colihaut	Mixed	„	II.	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3	St. George's	Boys'	Anglican	„	50	15	12 10 0	27 10 0	21 3 9	6 6 3	6 17 6	
4	Victoria Orphanage	Girls'	Roman Catholic	„	65	15	16 5 0	31 5 0	23 5 0	8 0 0	7 16 3	
5	Marigot	Mixed	Wesleyan	„	55	15	13 15 0	28 15 0	15 0 0	13 15 0	7 3 9	Advanced from Class III.
6	Portsmouth	„	Government	III.	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7	St. George's	Girls'	Anglican	„	40	10	8 0 0	18 0 0	13 1 0	4 19 0	4 10 0	
8	Vielle Casse	Mixed	Government	„	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9	Wesley	„	Wesleyan	„	52	10	10 8 0	20 8 0	15 15 0	4 13 0	5 2 0	
10	Hampstead	„	„	„	24	10	4 16 0	14 16 0	10 16 0	4 0 0	3 14 0	
11	Souffrière	„	Government	„	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	
12	Mount Wallis	„	Wesleyan	„	24	10	4 16 0	14 16 0	11 8 0	3 8 0	3 14 0	
13	The Convent	Girls'	Roman Catholic	„	79	10	15 16 0	25 16 0	19 7 0	6 9 0	6 9 0	
14	Grand Bay	Mixed	Government	„	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	Advanced from Failed List.
15	La Roche	„	„	„	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	
16	Pte. Michelle	Boys'	„	Failed, but recommended.	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	
17	Roseau	Girls'	„		55	—	—	—	—	—	—	
18	„	Boys'	Roman Catholic		31	5	3 2 0	8 2 0	5 18 6	2 3 6	2 0 6	
19	Pte. Michelle	Girls'	„		58	5	5 16 0	10 16 0	6 12 0	4 4 0	2 14 0	
20	St. Joseph	Mixed	Government		32	—	—	—	—	—	—	
21	St. Paul's	„	Roman Catholic		62	5	6 4 0	11 4 0	8 14 0	2 10 0	2 16 0	
22	Layou	„	Wesleyan		37	5	3 14 0	8 14 0	5 17 0	2 17 0	2 3 6	
23	Du Blanc	„	Government		33	—	—	—	—	—	—	
24	Coulibristrie	„	„		34	—	—	—	—	—	—	
24	Totals	-	-	-	1,205	115	105 2 0	220 2 0	156 17 3	63 4 9	55 0 6	

N.B.—Teachers of Government Schools receive fixed salaries payable monthly.

December 1879.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1879 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of MONTSERRAT in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1879.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1879.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1880.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	Olveston	Mixed	Undenominational	I.	65	20	19 10 0	39 10 0	30 15 0	8 15 0	9 17 6	
2	St. Mary's	„	Anglican	„	141	20	42 6 0	62 6 0	31 13 9	30 12 3	15 11 6	Advanced from Class II.
3	Plymouth	„	Wesleyan	II.	34	15	8 10 0	23 10 0	21 7 6	2 2 6	5 17 6	
4	St. Peter's	„	Anglican	III.	44	10	8 16 0	18 16 0	13 16 0	5 0 0	4 14 0	
5	St. Patrick's	„	„	„	38	10	7 12 0	17 12 0	12 3 0	5 9 0	4 8 0	
6	Kinsale	„	„	„	52	10	10 8 0	20 8 0	6 7 6	14 0 6	5 2 0	Advanced from Failed List.
7	Bethel	„	Wesleyan	„	49	10	9 16 0	19 16 0	7 13 0	12 3 0	4 19 0	Advanced from Failed List.
8	St. George's	„	Anglican	Failed, but recommended.	50	5	5 0 0	10 0 0	6 12 0	3 8 0	2 10 0	
9	Cavalla Hill	„	Wesleyan		42	5	4 4 0	9 4 0	7 4 0	2 0 0	2 6 0	
10	Plymouth	„	Roman Catholic		43	5	4 6 0	9 6 0	6 9 0	2 17 0	2 6 6	
11	Roaches	„	Anglican		21	5	2 2 0	7 2 0	5 5 0	1 17 0	1 15 6	
11	Totals	-	-	-	579	115	122 10 0	237 10 0	149 5 9	88 4 3	59 7 6	

December 1879.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1879 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of NEVIS, in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1879.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1879.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1880.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation. Grant.	Total.				
						£ s.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	St. George's	Mixed	Anglican	I.	67	20 0	20 2 0	40 2 0	22 2 6	17 19 6	10 0 6	Advanced from Class II.
2	Charlestown	„	Wesleyan	„	113	20 0	33 18 0	53 18 0	29 16 3	24 1 9	13 9 6	„ „ „
3	Gingerland	„	„	II.	111	15 0	27 15 0	42 15 0	34 2 6	8 12 6	10 13 9	
4	St. Paul's	„	Anglican	„	58	15 0	14 10 0	29 10 0	15 0 0	14 10 0	7 7 6	Advanced from Class III.
5	St. Thomas's	„	„	III.	57	10 0	11 8 0	21 8 0	13 16 0	7 12 0	5 7 0	
6	Combermere	„	Wesleyan	„	54	10 0	10 16 0	20 16 0	13 7 0	7 9 0	5 4 0	
7	St. James'	„	Anglican	„	43	10 0	8 12 0	18 12 0	12 9 0	6 3 0	4 13 0	
8	Clifton	„	Wesleyan	„	37	10 0	7 8 0	17 8 0	12 18 0	4 10 0	4 7 0	
9	St. John's	„	Anglican	„	60	10 0	12 0 0	22 0 0	15 15 0	6 5 0	5 10 0	
10	Brown Hill	„	Wesleyan	—	43	3 15	3 4 6	6 19 6	—	6 19 6	2 6 6	A new school. Received from 1st April.
10	Totals	- -	- -	- -	643	123 15	149 13 6	273 8 6	169 6 3	104 2 3	68 18 9	

December 1879.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

STATEMENT of ACCOUNT for the Year 1879 of SCHOOLS in the Presidency of the VIRGIN ISLANDS in receipt of Government Aid as the Result of Examination.

No.	Name of School.	Kind.	Denomination.	Class.	Average for Capitation.	Aid earned.			Advances for First Three Quarters of 1879.	Balance due at End of Fourth Quarter of 1879.	Quarterly Advance Rate for 1880.	Remarks.
						Class Grant.	Capitation Grant.	Total.				
						£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1	St. George's, Tor -	Mixed	Anglican - -	III.	30	5	3 0 0	8 0 0	5 6 6	2 13 6	2 0 0	The Government grant being limited in amount, and all the schools being necessary, all are recommended for exceptional aid.
2	Road Town, Tor -	„	Wesleyan - -	All recommended for exceptional aid.	28	5	2 16 0	7 16 0	6 9 0	1 7 0	1 19 0	
3	St. Paul's, Tor - -	„	Anglican - -		20	5	2 0 0	7 0 0	5 0 6	1 19 6	1 15 0	
4	St. Peter's, Tor - -	„	„ - -		32	5	3 4 0	8 4 0	6 0 0	2 4 0	2 1 0	
5	Kingstown, Tor - -	„	„ - -		20	5	2 0 0	7 0 0	5 8 0	1 12 0	1 15 0	
6	Virgin Gorda - -	„	„ - -		54	5	5 8 0	10 8 0	6 6 0	4 2 0	2 12 0	
7	East End, Tor - -	„	Wesleyan - -		27	5	2 14 0	7 14 0	5 14 0	2 0 0	1 18 6	
8	West End, Tor - -	„	„ - -		37	5	3 14 0	8 14 0	7 17 6	0 16 6	2 3 6	
9	Jost Van Dyke - -	„	„ - -		25	5	2 10 0	7 10 0	6 0 0	1 10 0	1 17 6	
10	Peter Island - -	„	„ - -		19	5	1 18 0	6 18 0	5 5 0	1 13 0	1 14 6	
11	Anegada - - -	„	„ - -		55	5	5 10 0	10 10 0	7 10 0	3 0 0	2 12 6	
11	Totals - -	- -	- - - -	- -	347	55	34 14 0	89 14 0	66 16 6	22 17 6	22 8 6	

December 1879.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

APPENDIX B.—NAMES of SCHOOLS which have been struck off the GOVERNMENT LIST, or to which GRANTS in aid have been refused, and the reason for such refusal.

No.	Presidency.	Name of School.	Denomination.	Remarks.
1	Virgin Island - - -	Virgin Gorda - - -	Wesleyan - - -	Superfluous. *Vide* section 5, Education Act.
2	„ - - -	Salt Island - - -	Anglican - - -	Average less than 20. *Vide* section 6, Education Act.
3	Antigua - - -	St. John's - - -	Roman Catholic - -	Closed 30th September 1879.

December 1879.

(Signed) M. J. DRINKWATER,
H.M. Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands.

St. Kitts.

ST. KITTS.

No. 13.

Governor Berkeley, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
July 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of St. Christopher for the year 1879, together with President Moir's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) George Berkeley,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Sir, President's Office, June 26, 1880.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Presidency for the year 1879, and to submit the following remarks on its more important contents.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

2. These were unchanged during the year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue for 1879 amounted to 32,817*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*
The expenditure to 28,972*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*
Excess of revenue over expenditure, 3,844*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

The above revenue exceeded that for 1878 by 773*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* The expenditure also exceeding that of the previous year by 1,618*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

The revenue collected in excess of 1878 was principally derived from the following:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duties - - -	911	12	4
Liquor licenses - - -	293	15	0
Excise duty on rum - - -	478	10	9
Fines, fees, and forfeitures - -	353	14	3

Against which there were diminished receipts in the following items:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Export duties - - -	419	11	2
Cavalry tax - - - -	283	3	8
Export tonnage - - -	331	15	0
Tonnage and package tax - -	95	14	9
Basseterre building loan - -	234	1	6

The principal items on which the expenditure exceeded that of the previous year over 100*l.* were for—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Prison establishment - -	128	10	5
Education - - - -	157	10	0
Hospitals and Lunatic asylums -	244	4	3
Works and buildings - -	846	8	1
Building loan debentures - -	220	3	3

Finally, the estimated revenue for 1879 was placed at 28,456*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, but it reached 32,817*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, while the estimated expenditure was calculated at 28,350*l.* 16*s.*, and there was actually disbursed 28,972*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*

The available balance in the Colonial Bank at the credit of the Government on the 31st December 1879, was—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
At general account - -	3,932	6	3
Less excess of liabilities under Basseterre building loan - -	1,044	0	0
	2,888	6	3
Immigration fund - - -	8,120	4	7
Land claims - - - -	53	9	3
Unrepresented estates - -	85	1	4
Savings bank deposits - -	1,108	6	2
	£12,255	7	7

Sailing Vessels Inwards.

Years.	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1877 -	654	23,574	295	4,598	949	28,172	4,107
1878 -	830	32,939	248	9,408	1,078	42,357	5,027
1879 -	698	33,454	122	5,566	820	39,020	4,250

Sailing Vessels Outwards.

Years.	With Cargo.		In Ballast.		Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1877 -	779	21,579	145	6,590	942	28,169	4,124
1878 -	874	33,616	192	7,133	1,066	40,749	5,186
1879 -	662	29,688	157	8,093	819	37,781	4,275

Debt.

4. The above liability, due on the Basseterre building loan, will fall to be paid up in the year 1888. Although the full amount of 9,200*l.* had been applied for before the issuing of the debentures, 8,000*l.* only were advanced to freeholders, leaving a liability to the debenture holders of 1,200*l.*, reduced to 1,044*l* on the 31st December last.

Education.

5. The Inspector of Schools reports that during the year 1879 there has been steady progress made in the elementary education of the Presidency. The number of schools is 25, and the daily average attendance has advanced from 1,537 in the year 1878 to 1,628 in the year 1879, and payment of school fees has been strictly enforced. Three schools have been advanced, one from the third to the first class, one from the third to the second, and one from the "failed list" to a third class. 305*l.* were paid by the Government in class grants and 367*l.* 14*s.* in capitation grants, together 672*l.* 14*s.* These annual grants are steadily on the increase, as will be seen in the following table:—

Year.	Class Grants.	Capitation Grants.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1876 -	261 5 0	316 5 6	577 10 6
1877 -	280 0 0	326 4 0	606 4 0
1878 -	295 0 0	331 14 0	626 14 0
1879 -	305 0 0	367 14 0	672 14 0

Imports and Exports.

6. The total declared value of imports for the

	£
Year 1879 was - - -	177,243
„ 1878 „ - - -	173,117
Increase -	£4,126

That of exports was for the

	£
Year 1879 - - -	176,224
„ 1878 - - -	188,666
Decrease -	£12,442

The value of imports from the

	£
United Kingdom in 1879 was -	91,355
British Colonies - - -	25,163
Foreign Colonies - -	60,725
	£177,243

The value of exports to the same places was as follows :—

Place.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom - -	137,061	93	137,154
British Colonies - -	3,752	9,496	13,248
Foreign countries -	16,346	9,476	25,822
Total - -	157,159	19,065	176,224

Shipping.

7. The returns received by me in connexion with shipping show that in the last year the tonnage of sailing vessels, inwards, amounted to 39,020 tons, while the outwards tonnage was 37,781 tons. On the 31st of December, therefore 1,239 tons of shipping remained in the port awaiting the shipment of the produce of the Island to English and American markets.

The exports to ports on the American coasts have been largely promoted during the last three or four years, and the tonnage employed greatly increased. Better prices have been obtained from buyers in these markets who employ agents here than could be realised by the planter in England or Scotland, and there is a very great advantage to the seller on the spot, as he thereby saves insurance and other expenses, and is put in possession of funds to purchase what he requires in the cheapest market. Much of the cultivation in this Island depends upon the advance of money made by English merchants and the stipulations on which the money is advanced, include an obligation to ship the produce to England; so that frequently the embarrassed cultivator loses good opportunities of realising high prices from the American agents here, which, if he had been permitted to embrace, would more speedily put him in a position of freeing himself from monetary obligations. It is to be hoped, however, that, owing to the seasonable weather we have been enjoying for two or three years, the planters will soon be in a position to dispose of their produce to those who are willing to offer the best price, and that the Encumbered Estates Court may be unnecessary.

Public Works.

8. As will be seen from the returns under this heading, nearly all the churches and parsonages were repaired during the year; but it will be perceived that a very small amount was expended for this service, the cost being barely sufficient to render these buildings habitable and water-tight. Considerable expenditure is still necessary properly to complete this work.

The police station at St. Anns (Sandy Point) being in a state of absolute ruin, it was thought advisable to take measures to place

ST. KITTS.

it in a state of thorough repair, and it is now a very creditable public building. The court house, which includes the President's office, the chambers of the chief Justice, the office of the Superintendent of public works, and the offices of the Registrar and Provost Marshal, and other public buildings, which were very much in need of it, were painted, this accounts for the unusual charge of 226*l.* for paints and painting. There were several minor repairs done to other public buildings, the total amount of which represents so small a sum as to require no special explanation; the cost of these together with those before mentioned makes a total of 3,552*l.* 6*s.*, which includes a sum of 1,808*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* which has been expended in the repairs of roads, bridges, and retaining walls.

Vital Statistics.

9. The total mortality for the year was 60 above that of 1878. This increase was chiefly caused by an epidemic of fever which prevailed in the town but did not spread into the country parishes, and which made its appearance in September, and lasted till the end of December. There were 49 more deaths in Basseterre during the last three months of 1879, than in the corresponding period of the former year. Dr. Branch, in his report on this epidemic, says "that it broke out in New Town, and was confined "almost exclusively to that part of Basseterre; that about 1,500 "suffered from it, and that it varied in degree from slight inter- "mittent to putrid bilious and yellow fever, though the great "majority of the cases were bilious remittents." He adds, "that "it is certainly very deserving of comment and consideration "that the fever which originated in a line of houses fringing the "pond marshes confined itself so long and exclusively to the "neighbourhood of the swamps." Measures are now being adopted to fill up this swamp, and to pump out the spring-water which has hitherto been forced back by the influx of the sea.

In the first quarter of the year an epidemic of influenza "of a very severe type" was reported by nearly all the medical officers in the Island. Many persons here assert that severe and widespread influenza always occurs in a year when fever of a malignant type subsequently becomes epidemic. Assuming the present population of the Island to be 30,000, the birth rate during the year has been 35, and the death rate 30·9 per 1,000. The births have exceeded the deaths by 33, but among the whites the latter have been 7 in excess of the former. The mortality of children under 5 years is, to the total deaths, as 1 to 2·127. The enormous sacrifice of infant life disclosed by these figures, is due, to some extent, to the universal prevalence of congenital syphilis among the negro children; but it is also largely caused by the practice invariably pursued by the coloured women of the labouring class of feeding their newly born babies, in spite of the remonstrances of the doctors, with tous-les-mois, or other farinaceous substances, sweetened with unrefined sugar. The paternal feeling is, as a rule, feebly developed among the West Indian

peasantry. The man expects the woman, who is his concubine for the time, to work as he does in the field for their joint support, and not to remain at home suckling her infant, of whose relationship to himself he is justly very doubtful. The value of infant life in the Island would be greatly enhanced by measures, if any such can be devised, for encouraging the formation of firmer family ties among these people; and also by stringent enactments calculated to limit, as far as possible, the amazing prevalence in this little place of venereal diseases. A large number of children, 721, were successfully vaccinated during the year. This is creditable to the medical officers of the Presidency, who do not receive from the Government any fee for performing this operation; though their professional brethen, who fill corresponding public situations in the sister Presidency, Antigua, get 2*s.* 6*d.* for each case of successful vaccination.

Gaols and Prisons.

10. I regret to observe that the commitments for the years 1878 and 1879 contrast unfavourably for the latter, there appearing to be an increase of nearly 100, while the conviction of what may be considered the disorderly and criminal class is made apparent by the following returns:—

COMMITTED during the year 1878–9.

Year.	Male.	Female.	Juvenile.
1878 -	298	102	18
1879 -	361	131	33

Of whom had been PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED

Year.	Once.	Twice.	Thrice or oftener.
	Total.	Total.	Total.
1878 -	68	46	32
1879 -	70	54	134

The goal itself is kept in as cleanly and orderly a manner as the nature of the building will permit, but I cannot omit once more remarking on the inadequacy of proper accommodation in the women's department, the consideration of which has again been postponed pending the acceptance of an arrangement for the erection of a general prison for the Colony.

In consequence of an improved plan of providing for the feeding of the prisoners, which I introduced towards the end of the year, much better food is now supplied, and I anticipate that the cost will be considerably reduced.

ST. KITTS.

Hospitals.

11. There is no new feature with respect to these institutions, one in Basseterre, the other at Sandy Point, St. Anns, calling for comment in addition to what has appeared in former reports, except that the Cunningham Hospital has passed into the hands of Dr. Branch, as superintendent in the room of D. J. H. Boon, who died in the beginning of the year. Each hospital is well conducted, and much relief extended to the diseased and indigent poor.

Concluding Remarks.

12. It will be observed from the returns that the exportations of the staple product of the Island were less than those of the previous year. That of sugar in 1819 being 12,324 hogsheads, as against 13,683 hogsheads in 1878, showing a falling off of 1,359 hogsheads; thus accounting for the diminished receipts under the several heads of export duty, cavalry tax, and export tonnage. The reason alleged by many planters for this result was the prevalence of a plague of rats, which committed extensive ravages among the growing canes, large spaces in the fields having been completely destroyed, while others bore traces of the cane having been partially cut through by the vermin, and so rotting in the ground. Poison has been extensively utilized, and other means of combatting the pest have been adopted, which it is hoped will diminish the scourge, and the experiment of introducing the mongoose in Barbadoes will be carefully watched with the intention of following the example should such prove to be successful.

The serious flood of the 12th of January last will have its effect on the present year's crop, but the loss, I am informed by experienced planters, will not exceed three or four hundred hogsheads; the greater damage consisting in much cane land having been so washed and cut up that considerable time must elapse ere what is left, can, by cultivation, be rendered once more fertile and productive.

The crop for 1880, however, promises not to be far short, if it does not actually reach a fair average, and the young canes having been firmly established, there is good hope of a continuance of prosperity in the ensuing year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR,

The Hon. Edwin D. Baynes, C.M.G. President.

NEVIS.

No. 14.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bart.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
March 4, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for 1879, in duplicate, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of NEVIS for 1879.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

The revised tariffs of import and export duties which came into operation in October 1877 have since been maintained unaltered.

The changes then effected by the Legislature have rendered the collection of the duties more easy and effectual, and the rates established, though high, have not been found prohibitive.

By the re-adjustment of the land tax which took place in 1878, the charge on cultivated land was reduced from 2*s.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* per acre, whilst that on uncultivated land was raised from 2*d.* to 4*d.* per acre.

The actual loss occasioned to the revenue has been somewhat greater in 1879 than was anticipated at the time the change was made, but the relief thus afforded to estate owners cannot be objected to when it is considered that 7*s.* 6*d.* per hogshead, including the immigration tax, is paid on the exported produce.

The repeal of the House Tax Act in 1877 has removed a pressure which was felt to be onerous by most classes of the population.

The Act imposing an additional 25 per cent. on the excise duty on rum, intended as a substitute for the house tax, expired last year, but was renewed for 12 months.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The sum of revenue collected in 1879 was 11,171*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*

Of this amount 1,724*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* was the produce of the immigration tax, and not available for general purposes.

The excess as compared with the amount collected in the previous year was 1,338*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, and 1,273*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* beyond the

NEVIS.

estimate. There were increased receipts from customs and excise, and from the immigration tax (an export tax on sugar).

Under some heads the receipts fell short of those of 1878, especially from the land tax and the horse and carriage tax, as shown below.

—	1878.	1879.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Land tax - - -	502 4 0	419 3 1
Horse and carriage tax -	527 19 2	471 15 1

The total disbursements of the year, including those on account of immigration, amounted to 9,554*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, showing a comparative increase on the expenditure of 1878 of 1,067*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*, and 842*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* in excess of the estimated expenditure.

In order to pay off the last instalment of the public debt an additional sum of 400*l.*, not included in the estimates, was devoted to that purpose from the revenue of the year, and a charge of 218*l.* was incurred and paid on account of the withdrawal of a portion of the Island currency.

The charges for federal contribution, education, hospitals, and repairs of roads, were also slightly increased.

On the other hand, there was a decrease in the expense of the police and gaols, exclusive of establishments, and in the charges for immigration and interest on loans.

The proceeds of the immigration tax are now lodged in the Colonial Bank at Saint Kitts as a distinct fund, and the accounts are kept separate from those of the general revenue.

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Presidency on the 1st January 1880.

Assets and Liabilities on 31*st December* 1879.

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Cash on deposit at Colonial Bank - -	800	0	0
Cash on deposit in Treasury - - -	1,380	10	2¾
	2,180	10	2¾

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.
Savings bank deposits - - - -	120	0	4½
Crown Agents - - - - -	0	18	3
Provost Marshal's deposits - - -	262	9	3
Unrepresented estates deposits - - -	21	10	1
Immigration account - - - -	797	6	10½
	1,202	4	10

Public Debt.

1,400*l.* were applied during the year to the liquidation of the public debt, which is now finally discharged.

The debt was contracted with the West India Colonial Bank in the year 1874 by means of two loans at 6 per cent., viz.:

	£
Loan in aid of revenue - - -	2,000
Loan for immigration purposes - -	3,000

Civil Establishment.

I assumed the duties of Acting President on the 11th of April, in succession to Mr. Burns; President Havelock continuing to administer the Government of Saint Lucia.

Mr. W. D. Auchinleck was appointed Treasurer at Nevis and arrived on the 11th day of September.

Mr. Kortright arrived at Saint Kitts on the 1st day of December, after his appointment as superintendent of works for Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Legislation.

Eleven ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1879.

Besides the re-enactment of laws relating to the taxes, which were about to expire, provision was made for the compilation and printing of a new edition of the local laws.

The Immigration Protection Ordinance, No. 9, provides for the punishment of any persons inducing immigrants to leave this Island for any service in any place without the Colony, and of any persons engaged in their removal.

By No. 10 the General Legislature is authorised to pass laws relating to Aliens, Friendly Societies, and Commissions of Inquiry.

Coins, Exchange, &c.

A considerable amount of old and defaced Spanish coinage, which had for many years formed a part of the circulating currency of Nevis, has been withdrawn.

These coins, under the name of "sheedies" or "pesetas," had a nominal value attached to them of 10*d.*, and the half coin of the same denomination, 5*d.*; and, although not a legal tender, were accepted and re-issued from the Treasury office.

A proclamation decrying them had been issued in 1875, but no provision being made for their redemption at the nominal value, it would appear to have been inoperative.

On application to the Secretary of State it was decided that the loss, if any, attendant on their withdrawal from circulation should be borne by the public revenue; and with that intention it was arranged that the pesetas should be received at the Treasury at their nominal value for a period of six weeks, and that a proclamation should subsequently be issued limiting their acceptance to a further very short date.

NEVIS.

It was hoped that in this way the risk of an importation of these coins from other Islands might be avoided.

Measures having been taken in accordance with the directions indicated above, the whole amount of this coinage was withdrawn within the specified time, without trouble or inconvenience to the public, and being forwarded to the Crown Agents, was sold by them, and the proceeds remitted to this Colony in British silver coin.

The number and nominal value of the coins thus withdrawn were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
20 quadruple pesetas - - - -	3	6	8
111 double pesetas - - - -	9	5	0
21,796 pesetas - - - -	908	3	4
6,932 half pesetas - - - -	144	12	6
	1,065	7	6

The price obtained for the metal was 865*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, and the loss occasioned to the revenue 215*l.*, a smaller sum than might have been anticipated.

Immigration.

In the month of April the Indian Coolies brought to this Island in the ship "Gainsborough" to the number of 315 in the year 1874, were released from service by the expiry of their indentures.

They all declined to enter into new engagements, but have generally remained on the Island working as free labourers.

Some obtained passports and emigrated to Trinidad, and others crossed over to the Island of Saint Kitts. Many have since returned from both these Islands, showing that the conditions of peasant life in Nevis are by no means unfavourable as compared with the other West India Islands.

In consequence of the failure of the Federal Council to agree upon the Immigration Bill introduced to them in March 1879, the Legislative Council of Nevis sought permission from the Secretary of State to contract a fresh loan for immigration purposes, and to conduct immigration again on the basis of the existing local Immigration Act; but when, after a sufficient lapse of time, the applications from individual planters for Coolie immigrants were only two in number, it became evident that this small Colony was not in a position to engage in any independent action apart from co-operation of its neighbours.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports during the last two years is stated as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1878 - - - -	22,855	0	10½
1879 - - - -	38,812	11	2¼

showing a considerable increase in the last year. They consist chiefly of British and American products, such as dry goods, breadstuffs, wines, and liquors, and estates' stores and machinery, imported direct and from the British West Indies.

The total value of the exports in 1879 was increased to 75,918*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* as compared with 30,582*l.* 10*s.* in 1878.

The following table shows the total quantity and value of the sugar, rum, and molasses exported in 1878 and 1879:—

		1878.				1879.			
		Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.		
			£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
Sugar - -	hogsheads	3,240,600	26,930	0	0	8,013,600	66,780	0	0
Rum - -	gallons	760	73	6	8	4,410	490	0	0
Molasses -	gallons	79,515	3,534	0	0	203,714	9,054	0	0

Criminal Statistics.

The number of summary convictions in 1879 when compared with those in 1878 were remarkably few, especially as regards offences against property, which were reduced from 290 in 1878 to 40 during the past year, and are distinguished as follows:—

	1878.	1879.
Prædial larceny - - -	87	21
General offences against property -	203	19

Convictions for offences against the person numbered 145 in 1879 against 213 for the previous year, showing a decrease in 1879 of 68.

Including all other offences the total number of summary convictions reached in 1878, 1,210; in 1879, 795; total decrease in 1879, 415.

The comparative table for the last four years shows that this diminution of crime has not been steadily progressive, the convictions in 1878 having very much exceeded the numbers of the two previous years as well as those of 1879.

(Signed) J. SPENCER CHURCHILL,
Acting President.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 15.

Governor BERKELEY, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
June 8, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the past year, with the Acting President's report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE BERKELEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, Tortola,
May 20, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Virgin Islands' Blue Book for the year 1879.

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878 - - - -	1,536	11	3
1879 - - - -	1,589	5	0

2. It will be seen from the returns that the revenue exceeded that of the former year by 52*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* It also exceeded that of 1877 by 254*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* This improvement is principally due to an increase in the imports, owing to a greater degree of supervision having been exercised, which has tended in some degree to check the smuggling propensities of the small traders.

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878 - - - -	1,496	6	0
1879 - - - -	1,501	16	2

3. The expenditure, although a considerable amount of arrears from 1878 was paid off in 1879, and several votes were passed by the Legislature for services not included in the annual estimates, exceeded that of 1878 by only 5*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* I think that on the whole there has been some improvement in the finances of the Presidency.

Public Works.

4. The gaol, as mentioned in my report for last year, is still in very bad order, but I trust shortly to be able to report that it has been completely and thoroughly repaired.

The poor house requires shingling. This building has recently been temporarily repaired by having new door and window shutters put to it.

The wharf at Road Harbour requires to be thoroughly repaired, and as soon as the requisite materials can be procured I shall endeavour to have the repairs effected, as this building is of the greatest convenience to the public.

During the year a new and substantial wharf was erected at the out port, at the west end of Tortola, at a very small cost.

Legislation.

5. Five Ordinances were passed during the year, namely—

1. An Ordinance to indemnify John Lloyd, Esq., for certain acts performed by him as magistrate, and to confirm the said acts.

2. An Ordinance for compiling and printing a new edition of the laws of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

3. An Ordinance to prevent the unauthorised exportation of emigrants from these Islands.

4. An Ordinance to authorise the General Legislature to pass laws relating to aliens, friendly societies, and commissions of inquiry.

5. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands for the year 1880.

Imports and Exports.

The revenue from imports of 1879 amounted to 476*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* being an excess of 87*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* over that of the previous year. The export duties fell short of those of 1878 by 14*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*

General.

7. Everything that could be said on the condition and prospects of this Presidency has been so fully and ably dealt with in former reports that I have nothing to add to them.

8. With the exception of smuggling and other offences arising out of that baneful practice, crime is not common, and it certainly reflects great credit on a scattered population like that of the Virgin Islands, when it is taken into consideration that by far the greater portion reside at distances of from 15 to 30 miles over sea, away from the control of a magistrate and without police supervision, though it is well known that there are in Tortola one or two disappointed and disaffected persons who lose no opportunity of endeavouring to instil into the minds of the ignorant the idea that the laws are oppressive and that they are unfairly and unjustly dealt with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. H. DYETT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 16.

GOVERNOR Sir R. M. LAFFAN, R.E., K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL of KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Bermuda, June 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward the Blue Book of Bermuda for the year 1879.

2. The year has been upon the whole a favourable one for the Colony. The prices realised for its produce in New York reached, it is to be hoped, the lowest point of the long depression which followed the collapse of commerce and the suspension of manufacture in America in 1877; but the low prices were counterbalanced by increased production, and thus the Bermudas continued to flourish even while the great market for their agricultural produce was depressed.

3. The revival of commerce and manufacture which is now becoming very general throughout the United States has already caused a considerable rise in prices, and it is to be hoped that this effect will be lasting, and that the agricultural classes of Bermuda, who are every year extending and improving their cultivation, may have before them a long career of prosperity.

4. The revenue raised in 1879 was 28,378*l.* 8*s.*, whereas that raised during the preceding year, 1878, had only been 27,279*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*

5. Great improvements were effected during the year in the Colonial legislation. The Post Office Acts were entirely remodelled, and the Colonial Post Office was placed on an efficient and satisfactory footing. An Act was passed to improve the efficiency of the police force, and another authorising the provision of better gaol accommodation in the town of Hamilton. An Audit Act was passed, which for the first time in the history of the Colony brings all the financial transactions of the Government under the scrutiny of an effective audit board, and an Act was passed making better provision for the maintenance of schools, which is a great advance upon any preceding Colonial legislation upon this important subject.

6. The health of the Colony has been exceptionally good, and through the mercy of God the community has been spared any visitation of the yellow fever, which ranged so extensively throughout the West Indies, and the Bahamas, and the eastern coast of the United States. It is to be hoped that this immunity from fatal epidemics may be continued. Every effort is being made here to secure this desirable result by maintaining a strict and efficient quarantine.

7. The near approach of the census, which will be taken next year, renders it unnecessary that I should make any observations

here upon the somewhat theoretical figures set down in the return of population given by the registrar of births, marriages, and deaths. I believe, however, that the general census will show that there is a constant accession to the numbers of the coloured population, while the numbers of the whites are comparatively at a standstill. This effect, however, has not yet reached such a point in these Islands as to forebode any change in their political institutions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. M. LAFFAN, Major-General,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 17.

Governor the Right Hon. Sir H. B. E. FRERE, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Cape Town,
May 31, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the Cape of Good Hope Blue Book for 1879, and the report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE,
Governor.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the RESULTS shown in the Blue Book for 1879.

Statistical Summary.

1. The statistical summary embraces comparative tables on the following subjects: viz., revenue, expenditure, public debt, *imports and exports, and sales and grants of land, from 1850; banking transactions; education, from 1860; operations of the railway, telegraph, and postal departments, from 1873; with a resumé of the principal results of the censuses of 1865 and 1875.

Councils, Assembly, and Franchise.

2. By Proclamation of the 12th September 1878, the fifth Colonial Parliament was dissolved. The Legislative Council election took place in the month of November, and the per-centage proportions of electors who actually voted to those on the roll stood as under:—Western Electoral Province, 65·65; N.W. do., 35·98; S.W. do., 56·47; Midland do., 41·84; S.E. do., 34·16; N.E. do., 47·87 (average equal to 46·98). In the Eastern Electoral Province (5,191 voters) there was no poll.

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* In detail for the last 10 years.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

3. The total number of electors registered in 1878–79 was 44,675, and although the lists then contained 1,150 fewer names than in 1876–77, the figures are considerably higher than those for the years previous thereto. From the 1875 census report is derived the following (corrected) information:—persons to a representative (House of Assembly) 10,602;* males to do., 5,435; electors to do., 632; persons to an elector, 17·44; males do., 8·94.

4. The franchise is determined by the occupation of house property of the value of 25*l.*, or receipt of salary at the rate of 50*l.* per annum (or wages of 25*l.* per annum with board and lodging).

Civil Establishment Return.

5. Herein is exhibited in a tabular form the names, emoluments, and length of service, with dates of first and last appointments of all officers of the several departments of the regular public service at the end of 1879, together with particulars regarding certain functionaries in the postal, medical, railway, and telegraph departments. In a supplementary return are shown certain changes in the establishment effected between 1st January and 15th April 1880.

Personal Fees.

6. Personal fees are authorised by Act of Parliament or Government notice, and the amount received by each Government officer appears opposite his name in the Civil Establishment Return.

Security.

7. The second portion of this statement treats of the postal service. The sums for which postmasters' sureties are liable vary from 5*l.* to 400*l.*, the average amount per bond being, in 1879, 47*l.*, the number of postal officers 193, and the total amount assured, 9,106*l.* The number of officers in positions of trust, such as heads of departments, civil commissioners, stamp distributors, house duty receivers, Cape Mounted Riflemen, who were employed at the end of 1879, and had executed security bonds, was 255; and the amount of these bonds 141,850*l.*, or an average of 556*l.* per bond. The Colonial Orphan Chamber is interested in 124 cases, and the Provident Insurance Company in three. Sixty bonds, representing a sum of 32,750*l.*, were at the end of 1879 in various stages of progress towards completion.

Pensions.

8. The sum total of pensions payable for the year 1879 is 33,688*l.*, an increase of 3,121*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* on that shown in 1878. Eight persons drawing 2,135*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* a year being taken off the ordinary civil list, and 15 at 3,516*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* added, the net increase under this head is seven at 1,381*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* annually. Of field cornets receiving pensions of 5*l.* per annum under Notice of October 1837, there are four less. While the amount paid to sufferers in the Kafir wars, 1835–1851, has been reduced by

* *i.e.*, To every 10,602 of the inhabitants of the Colony there was in 1875 one member in the House of Assembly, and among every 17·44 persons one elector was registered.

4*l.* 2*s.*, that allowed to sufferers in the last disturbances has been augmented, through settlement of new cases, to 2,145*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* a year in all. The increase under the head of Special is therefore 677*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* Military includes men belonging to the late "Cape Corps," now in the receipt of 1,635*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* in sums varying from 2*d.* to 2*s.* per diem, F.A. & M.P. and C.M.R. of 1,107*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and yeomanry of 141*l.* 5*s.* per annum; in this instance the excess on 1878 is 1,053*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* According to the appropriation accounts the expenditure on pensions and gratuities during 1878–79 was 31,798.

Military.

9. The disbursements in 1878–79 on Colonial defence (Vote 9) amounted to 145,004*l.*; besides which, the expenditure during the same period, under the War Loan Act, was 649,715*l.* Great Britain expended in 1879, 340,033*l.* for military protection, and 104,800*l.* on the navy at the Cape of Good Hope.

10. The regiment of Cape Mounted Riflemen is enrolled under Act No. 9 of 1878, and consisted on 31st December 1879, of 39 officers and 867 non-commissioned officers and men; the corresponding figures for 1878 are 34 and 838. The number of horses is 537, and the corps has 789 carbines in charge and six field guns. Expenditure in 1878–79 on C.M.R. was 120,038*l.*

11. Under Act 5 of 1878 the three regiments of Cape Mounted Yeomanry serve. The enrolled strength is 55 officers and 857 men, horses are 895 in number, and 865 carbines have been issued. Expenditure in 1878–79 on yeomanry was 7,920*l.*

12. The volunteer forces are subject to the provisions of Act No. 10 of 1878, and their strength in December 1879, when nine corps (not returned) were about to be disbanded, was 146 officers and 2,618 men, a decrease of 29 officers and 759 men on 1878, at which time the number enrolled had reached the maximum. Equipment, 2,651 Snider rifles, 13 field guns, and 489 horses. Expenditure in 1878–79 on volunteers was 11,009*l.*

13. For service on the northern border of the Colony a force of 79 officers and men has been recently raised.

14. The number of burghers and levies registered under section 7 of Act 7 of 1878, is respectively 43,925 and 74,144.

Legislation.

15. This return contains a chronological list of all Acts and Proclamations promulgated in 1879, and of the more important Government notices published in that year.

Consuls.

16. Consuls, Vice-consuls, and Consular, agents are appointed at the chief ports of the Colony, and this statement shows their names and those of the countries they represent.

Heads of Revenue.

17. This chapter is supplementary to the one containing accounts of revenue, estimated and actual, and the various heads

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

of receipt are described, and the rates and authority for levy of the several taxes are mentioned according, as far as possible, to the order adopted in that statement. On pages 28 and 29 will be found enumerated the sources of revenue in Basutoland and the Transkei.

Revenue and Expenditure.

18. For the year 1878–79 the Colonial revenue was 2,082,889*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, an increase of 406,889*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* on the estimated amount, of 517,463*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* on the receipts in 1877–8, and of 479,971*l.* on the previous maximum reached (1875). Decreases, as compared with 1877–78 are as follows:—4,831*l.* under land sales, owing to passing of Act 14 of 1878, and 2,332*l.* under miscellaneous (casual). Fees of office and court have been collected by stamps since August 1878, and the income from fines, forfeitures, and fees of court has been diminished by 6,551*l.* New items—House duty (Act 20 of 1878) adding 58,420*l.*, and Excise duty (Act 2 of 1878) 63,522*l.* The chief increases are—

	£		£
Customs and harbour dues	147,821	Revenue now being	923,597
Land revenue - -	18,142	„ „	108,466
Transfer dues - -	14,621	„ „	86,703
Auction dues - -	7,308	„ „	26,960
Stamps and licences	- 18,891	„ „	118,872
Railway receipts	- 121,617	„ „	396,162
Telegraph „ -	- 6,214	„ „	29,633
Postal „ -	- 9,060	„ „	70,542
Transkei revenue	- 11,887	„ „	20,773

Rent brought in 3,855*l.*; bank notes duty, 8,388*l.*; succession duty, 7,565*l.*; sales of Government property, 11,943*l.*; interest, 21,851*l.*; reimbursements, 58,107*l.*; miscellaneous and special 6,328*l.* Including loans, the Colonial revenue for 1878–79 was 5,661,160*l.* Basutoland revenue for the year 1878–79 amounted to 15,551, the principal sources being—hut tax 12,148*l.* 10*s.* and licenses 2,634*l.*

The receipts for 1877–78 were 18,712*l.*

19. The Colonial expenditure chargeable as arrears, 1875, brought to charge in 1878–9 amounted to 1,721*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, of which 1,435*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* was unauthorised.

20. Expenditure under Acts of Parliament in 1878–79 amounted to 2,078,300*l.*, whereof 649,715*l.* was expended under the War Loan Act, 61,606*l.* went for interest during railway construction and cost of raising loan, 153,632*l.* was spent on harbour works and bridges over Orange and Kei rivers, 293,864*l.* on Western, 679,250*l.* on Midland and North-eastern, and 245,732*l.* on East London and Queen's Town railway systems, and 5,500*l.* for telegraph construction.

21. During the financial year 1878–79 the sum total disbursed under votes was 1,916,633*l.*, the corresponding figures for the two previous years were respectively 1,660,016*l.* and 1,495,833*l.*

In the annexed table is shown the expenditure by votes during each of the last three financial years :—

——	1878–79.	1877–78.	1876–77.
	£	£	£
The Governor - - - -	8,197	10,510	7,065
The High Commissioner - -	1,000	1,000	1,000
Colonial Secretary - - -	8,446	8,117	7,025
Medical - - - -	57,606	55,646	54,018
Police and gaols - - -	113,842	96,086	82,780
Public worship - - -	14,780	14,918	14,908
Parliamentary elections, &c. - -	2,177	391	1,084
Convicts - - - -	58,998	38,107	30,263
Miscellaneous - - - -	17,823	14,531	24,127
Crown Agents - - - -	1,308	1,204	721
Divisional courts and offices - -	67,956	61,896	64,159
Pensions - - - -	31,798	27,538	27,244
Colonial defence - - -	145,004	194,492	173,538
Legislative Council - - -	3,383	3,115	1,907
House of Assembly - - -	10,457	9,421	3,686
Controller and Auditor-General -	8,131	7,588	7,432
Registrar of Deeds - - -	2,969	2,951	3,250
Education - - - -	65,080	59,950	53,312
Mail services - - - -	21,158	19,760	18,598
Conveyance of mails - - -	140,709	121,456	94,642
Treasurer - - - -	4,367	4,172	5,267
Government savings Bank - -	655	475	464
Stamp branch - - - -	1,017	843	733
Revenue services - - -	10,888	1,568	2,978
Miscellaneous - - - -	3,317	1,189	—
Excise - - - - -	2,864	—	—
Interest and commission - -	374,810	294,862	187,125
Loans repaid - - - -	74,065	29,546	41,540
Expenditure: sundry Acts - -	5,683	8,456	18,393
Inspector of Chests - - -	—	—	417
Customs - - - -	22,947	21,488	21,800
Sums refunded - - - -	13,219	5,647	3,425
Revenue services - - -	360	18	85
Attorney-General - - -	2,612	2,007	1,686
Solicitor-General - - -	1,041	920	890
Superintendent, Eastern District, and Circuit Courts - - -	23,431	22,040	23,783
High Sheriff - - - -	2,768	3,858	2,618
Commissioner of C. L. and Public Works - - -	5,016	4,363	4,120
Ports and harbours - - -	13,442	12,607	8,862
Crown forests - - - -	4,299	4,105	4,036
Hydraulic Engineer - - -	1,790	2,000	1,136
Immigration - - - -	18,121	38,490	44,480
Unprovided for- - - -	83	7,083	804
Survey office, establishment - -	6,101	5,745	5,773
„ miscellaneous - -	23,098	19,731	13,620
„ special - - -	—	141	119
Chief Inspector Public Works, establishment - -	10,581	9,910	10,318
„ works and buildings -	23,195	37,143	46,992
„ roads and bridges -	36,491	33,898	71,527
„ lighthouses—main. -	2,040	1,477	1,788
„ miscellaneous -	739	644	1,013
„ rent - - -	10,433	9,220	—
„ stores - - -	164	1,060	756
Railway Engineer - - -	4,331	4,896	5,429
Western Railways - - -	165,802	116,640	100,391
Extension surveys - -	3,220	—	—
Midland and North-eastern Railway -	100,943	90,928	86,758

	1878–79.	1877–78.	1876–77.
	£	£	£
East London and Queen's Town Railway	63,873	38,201	11,277
Telegraphs	31,429	32,354	50,738
Secretary for Native Affairs	4,910	3,879	3,029
Resident Commissioner	754	—	—
Northern Border Magistracy	772	814	536
Collectors of Revenue, &c.	3,856	3,839	5,138
Pensions—native police	215	*1,973	
Chiefs, &c.	3,531	4,138	3,855
Inspectors and constables	3,035	1,561	358
Territory north of Orange River	3,472	2,231	4,012
Miscellaneous	150	177	450
Border department	45,880	24,968	26,546
Advances	—	34	—
Basutoland	31,155	19,772	17,876

Debt.

22. On the 31st December 1879 the debt for the service of the general Government stood at 9,527,458*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, and for harbour works under management of corporate bodies at 489,950*l.*; an increase on the figures of 1878 of, respectively, 2,541,100*l.* and 27,200*l.* The public debt was created in 1859, and its growth may be traced in the statistical summary before referred to.

Public Works.

23. Statement for 1878–9 rendered by Public Works Office; this is a detailed return of expenditure on harbours, ordinary and new works, lighthouses, roads and bridges. The total outlay on works prosecuted during 1878–9 is stated to be 887,261*l.*, made up of 33,704*l.* spent on works finished; 183,184*l.* do. unfinished; and 670,372*l.* being expenditure previous to July 1878. Harbour works at the Kowie were commenced in 1857, and at East London in 1855, and the disbursement thereon to July 1879 was 364,793*l.* Four bridges were in course of construction over the Orange River in July 1879, and had cost up to that date 249,737*l.*

24. *Railways.*—Up to the 31st December 1879 a sum of 5,786,057*l.* had been used for the construction of the then unfinished railways; 1,530,532*l.* being charged to Western, 2,633,682*l.* to Midland and North-eastern, and 1,621,843*l.* to East London and Queen's Town Railway systems. The estimated expenditure was respectively 1,612,792*l.*, 3,184,299*l.*, and 1,603,500*l.*; in all, 6,400,591*l.*

25. *Telegraphs.*—The expenditure on construction to 31st December 1879 was 34,067*l.* for line from Komgha to Natal, and 613*l.* under Act 38 of 1879 for new works. Total estimated expense, 100,000*l.*

* Including Salaries.

Local Revenues.

26. In the *Dutch* churches, of which 56 were returned, the receipts stand at 62,586*l.*; 9,539*l.* coming from collections, and 25,014*l.* from special contributions, &c. Of the disbursements (60,468*l.*) 16,880*l.* went for salaries, and 19,215*l.* for works and buildings.

27. Fifty-six *English* churches sent in statements showing on the credit side 24,706*l.*, and debit side 25,407*l.* Offertories contributed 13,770*l.*, and English societies, with grants, &c., 8,099*l.* The stipends of the clergy amounted to 13,189*l.*, and 5,870*l.* was sunk in works and buildings.

28. *Divisional Councils.*—There are now 48 of these institutions, with a revenue and expenditure respectively of 131,444*l.* and 132,444*l.* These figures show an advance on those of 1878, but are considerably below those of 1876 and 1877. On works the payments in 1879 were 91,194*l.* besides the 1,963*l.* contributed under the Main Roads Act of 1864. On the other side, road and other rates brought in 79,028*l.*; tolls and ferries, 22,988*l.*; loans and interest, 15,300*l.* According to the last returns the value of fixed property in the Colony (for divisional councils assessment purposes) is 23,945,694*l.*

29. *Municipalities,* 52 in number, have an income of 127,968*l.* and expenses to the extent of 129,939*l.* Taxes and water rates produce 57,364*l.* Market dues, 17,347*l.*; land and house rent, 12,395*l.*; and loans, 22,701*l.* The maintenance, &c. of streets and other works of this nature necessitated the payment of 74,081*l.*, and 17,867*l.* figures as the amount of debts and interest paid. Towards the cost of urban police the municipal councils contributed in 1879 3,745*l.*, and the divisional councils similarly paid 6,804*l.* for rural police force.

Customs

30. *Shipping.*—The total number of vessels entered inwards in 1879 was 2,238, of 2,139,182 tonnage, an increase of 408 in number and of 504,156 in tonnage on 1878; of these, 1,816, measuring 1,978,842 tons, were British, and 422, of 160,340 tons, foreign vessels. Cleared outwards in 1879 there were 2,156, of 2,050,868 tonnage, an increase on 1878 of 367 in number and 445,196 in tonnage; of these, 1,786 of 1,915,169 tons were British, and 370, of 135,699 tons, foreign ships. The vessels inwards, of which 2,115 of 2,098,845 tons had cargoes, were manned by 73,138 sailors, and those outward, of which 1,522 of 1,793,314 tons had cargoes, by 70,539. In regard to nationality of shipping inwards, it appears that 1,435 vessels belonged to the United Kingdom, 381 were Colonial, 21 Austrian, 49 American, 25 Danish, 10 Dutch, 36 French, 145 German, 25 Italian, 107 Norwegian and Swedish, 3 Russian, and 1 Portuguese. The number of vessels belonging to the port of Cape Town was 41, of 3,844 tons, and to the port of Port Elizabeth 6, of 1,829 tons.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

31. *Imports and Exports.*—The total value of imports in 1879 was 7,080,229*l.*, and of exports 3,805,609*l.*, showing an increase respectively of 929,206*l.* and 349,318*l.* in the previous year.

As regards the United Kingdom, the value of the imports from had increased by 1,227,101*l.*, and of exports to, by 197,583*l.*; the figures in 1879 being respectively 5,732,233*l.* and 3,388,299*l.* As regards British possessions, the value of imports from had decreased by 250,398*l.*, and of exports to had increased by 20,922*l.*; the figures in 1879 being respectively 662,099*l.* and 170,604*l.* As regards foreign countries, the value of imports from had decreased by 49,585*l.*, and of exports to had increased by 130,813*l.*, the values for 1879 being respectively 683,809*l.* and 246,706*l.*; specie (not included in the foregoing figures) was imported and exported to the extent respectively of 583,996*l.* and 262,080*l.* The entries for home consumption in 1879 represent a value of 6,879,024*l.* or 97·158 per cent. of the total imports; in 1878 a value of 6,031,564*l.* or 98·578 per cent. of the imports. The per-centage increase of imports in 1879 on 1878 is 15·107, of consumption 14·051, of exports 10·618. Colonial produce was sent away in 1879 to the value of 3,664,735*l.*, an increase of 351,756*l.* on 1878. The increase in the quantity of wool exported in 1879 compared with 1878 is 24·778, and in value 14·171. Comparative tables of Colonial imports and exports since 1870 are given in full in the statistical summary.

Wages and Rent.

32. The wages of farm overseers, servants, and ordinary labourers ruled generally higher than in 1877 and 1878. The average rates are now for European overseers 4*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* per mensem, with board and lodging; farm servants, 1*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*; and labourers 2*s.* 11*d.* per diem with food. Those for male domestics have fallen, whilst those for female are steady, European males receive 38*s.* 8*d.* per month with board and lodging, and females 25*s.* with ditto. The average rate of wages for tradesmen is, European 9*s.*, and coloured 6*s.* per diem. Payments to European workmen as a rule show an increase on 1878, the figures then being 8*s.* 7*d.* per diem (average).

Provisions and Clothing.

33. Necessaries of life are cheaper than in 1877 and 1878. Flour has fallen in price since 1877, when it was sold at 5*d.* per pound; beef is a ¼*d.* a lb. lower than in 1877–78; mutton shows a similar advance on 1878: butter a decline of 3½*d.* per lb. on last year; tea, coffee, sugar, and milk are disposed of on lower terms; rice, tobacco, and beer are steady, but wine and brandy dearer. Clothing and bedding in nearly every instance are more moderate in cost.

Land cultivated.

34. The area of holdings in 1865 was 20,464,602 morgen; in 1875 it had reached 39,947,734 morgen, distributed as follows:—

29,814,182 quitrent, 6,797,811 leases (Act 19, '64), 2,873,457 other leases, 40 outspan, and 462,244 freehold. In 1865 the extent cultivated was 217,692 morgen; the corresponding figures for 1875 are 274,412 morgen. Vine stocks are returned as numbering 69,910,215 in 1875, when 4,485,665 imperial gallons of wine and 1,067,832 of brandy and spirits were manufactured. According to 1875 census the production of the various crops was as follows:—Wheat, 1,687,935 bushels; barley, 447,991; rye, 214,260; oats, 937,363 —100 lbs. weight, besides 918,494 bushels; maize and millet, 1,113,007 bushels; peas, &c., 60,636; potatoes, 184,738; tobacco, 3,060,241 lbs., and dried fruits 2,672,761 lbs.

35. *Agricultural Produce.* — Prices fell suddenly after the close of 1878, when the rates had reached the highest known for some time, and are now slightly in advance of those quoted for 1876. Wheat now sells at 9*s.* 8*d.* per bushel; barley for 5*s.* 7*d.*; rye and oats at 6*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 10*d.*; maize, 9*s.* per bushel. Wine was 18*l.* per leaguer in 1876, 10*l.* 17*s.* in 1878, and has now risen in price to 13*l.* Brandy is disposed of at the rate of 31*l.* 2*s.* per leaguer; in 1877 it was as low as 17*l.* 10*l.*

Stock and Animal Productions.

36. A comparison of the results of the two censuses gives the following centesimal increases and decreases in the numbers of live stock between 1865 and 1875, viz.:—Horses,—9·10, mules and asses, + 20·71. Cattle (draught) + 69·18, other + 55·68. Sheep (woolled) + 19·55, other—32·44. Angora goats + 623·07, other—5·56. Pigs + 48·40. The number of domesticated ostriches had risen from 80 to 21,751, and the production of wool had been augmented 49·72 per cent. British Basutoland was included in the 1875 census, and the inhabitants thereof possessed 35,257 horses, 217,417 cattle, 289,807 sheep, and 160,754 goats. Enumerations of live stock in Transkeian districts are incomplete, but 26,940 horses, 218,931 cattle, 434,297 sheep, and 187,775 goats have been returned as belonging to people in certain portions thereof.

37. Prices of live stock have, as a rule, been gradually rising for some time past; animal productions, except skins, are, however, cheaper than of late. Horses are now disposed of at from 22*l.* to 23*l.* per head, mules, 21*l.*, asses 6*l.* 12*s.*, oxen and cows from 8*l.* 12*s.* to 9*l.* 2*s.*, slaughter sheep sell now at 19*s.* each, woolled sheep 17*s.* 5*d.*, and goats at 16*s.*

Manufactories, &c.

38. When the 1875 census was taken particulars were collected as to the number of agricultural implements and industries. It will be sufficient to mention, however, that the value of such implements and machinery, imported since the beginning of 1875 is, according to the customs return, no less than 194,026*l.* Regarding manufactories in the towns and villages the information

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

is as yet defective. Boot works were 138 in number in 1879, Brick do. 136, Confectionery 44, Cooperage 28, Guns 16, Foundries 13, Iron and Tin works 105, Printing 47, Saddlery and Harness 97, Waggons and Carts 247, Fish curing 30, Gas 4, Glass 1, Boat building 9.

39. *Mines.* – The most noted are Manganese (Paarl division); exports in 1879 amounted to 181 tons. Copper ore (Namaqualand division), per-centage from 32 to 35; exports in 1879 14,178 tons, value 283,885*l.* Guano cave in Robertson division. Coal, Wodehouse division, 700 tons, valued at 1,050*l.*, raised in 1879; Albert division, produce of two mines was 700,000 lbs. at 2*s.* per 100 lbs.

40. *Fisheries.*—210 boats, and upwards of 1,610 persons are engaged in connexion with the Sea Fisheries on the coast of the Colony. Quantity and value of Dried Fish exported in 1879 was respectively 3,956,881 lbs. (weight) and 25,997*l.* value.

41. Salt pans (large) in the following divisions:—Malmesbury, Piquetberg, Fraserburg, Riversdale, Uitenhage, and Cradock. The export of Colonial salt amounted in 1879 to over 600,000 lbs.

Land granted and sold.

42. A sketch of the land laws will be found on pages 6 to 8 of the Return I. Heads of Revenue. The extent of *acres* granted during 1879 is 418,777, and sold 1,455,668. The area of the Colony (with East Griqualand) approximating 124,162,000 acres, 71,834,232 of which have been disposed of; there are 52,327,768 acres still ungranted. In 1879 there were 1,807 transactions, the number settled by purchase being 395, and the purchase amount 49,418*l.*, and by grant 1,412, the annual quitrent being 10,774*l.* The majority of grants were under 50 morgen, the number actually being 1,362, representing 3,097 morgen of land, 27 were between 50 and 250 morgen, and 418 exceeded 250 morgen.

Banks.

43. The amount of coin in circulation appears to be about 5,000,000*l.*; this is estimated from the balance of imports over exports and the sum in banks' coffers in December 1879. The number of banking institutions in operation at the close of 1879 was 11, the nominal capital of which totalled to 6,105,028*l.*, and paid up 2,676,349*l.* Shares numbered 131,724; the reserve fund stood at 884,889*l.*, and the note circulation at 721,409*l.*, the highest sum reached since 1874. *Assets* and *liabilities*:—The total transactions for the half year ended 31st December 1879 show an increase of 2,543,809*l.* on the corresponding period of 1878. Comparing the half yearly statements for the last half of each year since and including 1875, it will be seen that the amount of coin in the coffers was highest in 1879 (1,314,491*l.*); drafts on Treasury highest in 1878 (31,843*l.*), notes and cheques in 1879 (an increase on 1878 of 109,136*l.*), balances in other banks in 1879 (3,868,160*l.*, being 1,564,881*l.* in excess of 1878), value

of buildings in 1875, bills and notes under discount in 1879 (5,875,622*l.*, *i.e.*, 486,761*l.* more than in 1875, the next highest), bills and notes and accounts overdrawn in 1876, and other debts in 1879. As regards liabilities:—Capital stood at the maximum in 1876; reserve fund has steadily risen from 180,160*l.* in 1875 to 244,889*l.* in 1879, notes circulated show an increase of 36,263*l.* on 1878, post bills were largest in amount in 1876, fixed deposits have grown from 2,379,743*l.* in 1875, to 3,672,155*l.* in 1879, floating deposits are 499,283*l.* larger than in 1875, and show a small increase on 1878, balances in other banks were highest in 1879, so was interest; bills payable, and profit and loss in 1876.

44. *Government Savings Bank.*—On the 31st December 1878 979 depositors had 16,243*l.* to their credit, and in December 1879 there were 1,083 depositors with 18,426*l.* of capital and 516*l.* of interest due; the corresponding figures for 1877 show 808 depositors, with 13,374*l.* of capital and 307*l.* of interest due. During 1879, 302 accounts were opened and 10,256*l.* paid in, and 198 closed, and 8,073*l.* withdrawn; the amount of interest paid was 75*l.*

45. In the Cape of Good Hope Savings Bank the receipts from depositors amounted in 1879 to 84,285*l.*, and the repayments to 74,965*l.*; interest was allotted to the extent of 9,383*l.* The sum to the credit of depositors was 218,148*l.*, an increase of 10,662*l.* on 1878. Accounts to the number of 1,108 were opened, and 787 were closed; the total number open in December 1879 was 4,843. At Graham's Town and King William's Town are also savings banks. In the first-named 1,208 depositors had 7,039*l.* to their credit, and in the second to 1,033 individuals 19,688*l.* was due.

Population.

46. The last census was taken in March 1875, and the population of the Colony was returned as follows:—European or white, 236,783; Malay, 10,817; Hottentot, 98,561; Fingo, 73,506; Kafir and Betshuana, 214,133; mixed and other, 87,184, or 720,984 in all, of which 369,628 are males and 351,356 females.

By adding to that of the Colony as it existed in 1865, the population of British Kaffraria (since annexed) the true increase in the decade is obtained; it is as follows:—

Numbers, 138,402—

European or white, 47,008; coloured, 91,394.

Per cent., 23·756—

European or white, 24·770; coloured, 23·267.

To every 100 males of the total population there were 95·06 females. According to race, there were to 100 males, amongst Europeans, 91·09 females, amongst coloured, 97·06 females. In 1875 there were to the square mile 3·60 persons, of whom 1·18 were white and 2·42 coloured. The number of inhabited dwellings was 55,212, exclusive of 76,022 inhabited huts and tents, and the number of persons to an inhabited dwelling is 5·49. Under 15 years of age there were 314,516 persons; between

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

15 and 55, 352,399; from 55 and upwards 43,000; and 11,069 were of unspecified age. In regard to education 62·35 per cent. whites and 6·17 coloured could read and write, and 3·93 per cent. white, and 4·08 coloured, read only.

Conjugal Condition.— 1. Regular Marriages. — There were among European or whites 36,044 husbands and 34,777 wives, with 2,124 widowers and 4,817 widows. Bachelors (20 years and upwards) numbered 20,446, and spinsters (15 and upwards) 21,367. 2. Irregular Marriages.—To 55,768 wives there were 50,375 husbands, with 1,299 widowers and 8,179 widows.

About 3,800 marriages are contracted annually, the number in 1877 being 3,778; in 1878, 3,721; and in 1879 approximately, 3,900.

Religions.—The number of persons belonging to the principal creeds is:—

——	European or White.	Coloured.
Protestant - - - -	225,126	139,963
Catholics - - - -	8,666	1,001
Jews - - - - -	538	—
Mahommedans - - - -	18	11,196
Others - - - - -	15	8

2,237 European or white were of no religion, as were 331,810 coloured, and 406 refused to state their religious beliefs.

Birth-places.—Of the European or white population, 204,529 were born in British possessions in Africa, and 1,334 in other African States. 22,032 persons had come from Great Britain, and 749 from other British possessions; 131 were born at sea. Of 843 the birth-places were unknown or unstated. In France 239 were born; in Germany, 4,685; in Holland, 879; in Norway, Sweden and Denmark, 421; in U.S. of America, 264. From British possessions in Africa (outside the Colony), 1,066 persons had come.

Infirmities. — As regards race, the largest proportion of the infirm occurs among Malays; of blind among Fingos; of idiotic, males among Malays, females among Fingos; of lunatics, males among mixed and other, females among Hottentots. The number of European or white infirm under 15 years of age is greater in proportion to the population than it is in the coloured races; and at higher ages the proportion is reversed only in blind and idiotic. The total number of infirm in 1875 was 2,627, exclusive of 52 lepers.

Occupations.—The professional class comprise 7,916 persons, or 1·098 per cent. of the total population; domestic, 83,266, or 11·549 per cent.; commercial, 13,317, or 1·847; agricultural, 209,136, or 29·007; industrial, 24,279, or 3·367; indefinite and non-productive, 383,070, or 53·132 per cent.

47. *Basutoland.*—In 1875, there were only 469 European or white persons among the 128,176 inhabitants of the territory.

Transkei.—The total population of four of the districts is 175,073.

Gaols.

48. During the year 1879 the names of 20,169 persons (of whom 2,563 were females), were registered in the prison records, 8,503 of these were Christians, 11,414 pagans, and 252 Mahomedans. In 1878, when the numbers were exceptionally high owing to the frontier disturbances, 23,280 males and 2,890 females were in custody; in 1877, 16,580 males and 2,539 females; and in 1876, 13,534 males and 2,124 females. Dividing the prisoners (1879) into two classes, white and coloured, it appears that there were 61 white and 501 black under, and 2,685 whites, and 16,922 blacks over, 18 years of age. Of the whites, all but 403 could read; of the coloured, only 2,916 were able to do so. 2,614 of the prisoners had been committed before; 1,455 once, 643 twice, and 516 three times or more. Cases of sickness numbered 1,243, of which 65 resulted fatally. There were 109 escapes from prison. In Basutoland gaols 127 coloured persons were kept in confinement at one time or another in 1879, four of these were females, and only nine were below 18 years of age. In guarding and attending on the prisoners in the Colony, 149 persons are employed, besides these, the constabulary consists of 805 officers and men. Provisions are lower in price than in 1878. The Colonial expenditure in 1878–79 on "Police and Gaols" amounted to 68,739*l.* for salaries and allowances, 39,375*l.* for contingent expenses, and 5,727*l.* for transport.

Inquests.

49. The Inquest Act came into operation in July 1875. Since that date, 1,735 inquests and investigations have been held on 1,398 males and 344 females (excluding 1 unknown). The number of inquests increases annually, that of investigations (by field cornets) was highest in 1877. In the period 1875–1879 it was found that disease carried off 507 persons, 100 met their death through falling, 123 were run over, 51 were burnt, 239 were drowned, 47 were accidentally shot, 77 poisoned (but not by violence), and 54 perished by other accidents; there were 165 cases of violence, 84 males and 17 females committed suicide, 211 persons died through exposure, and the miscellaneous causes of death were 67 in number.

Crimes.

50. In the magistrates' courts in the Colony 834 preliminary examinations were held in 1879, and 20,426 prosecutions conducted. Charges were preferred against 25,768 persons, 4,788 male (18·58 per cent. of the whole number), and 240 female whites (0·93 per cent.), 17,639 male (68·45 per cent.) and 3,101 female blacks (12·04). The per-centage of female whites is the lowest recorded since 1876; that of male whites and female blacks the smallest, and that of male blacks the largest, except in 1878.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The cases were disposed of as follows:—Withdrawals, &c., 665 (2·58 per cent.), convictions 19,786 (76·79 per cent.), acquittals 1,906 (7·40 per cent.), dismissals and discharges 2,297 (8·91 per cent.), otherwise 458 (1·78 per cent.), transmissions to Supreme and Circuit Courts 656 (2·54 per cent.). These 25,768 crimes were committed by 21,859 separate individuals. See § 56. Offences are divided into seven classes as under:—

—	Accusations (Number).	Convictions.	Transmissions to higher Courts.
Offences against the person - -	4,409	3,165	164
„ the person and property	335	118	133
„ property - -	5,224	3,649	333
„ good order - -	8,971	7,644	1
„ carrying out laws (police discipline &c.) - -	966	779	10
„ the currency and revenue - - -	155	116	5
„ Public welfare -	5,708	4,315	10

Crime was more prevalent in 1878, when 30,182 accusations were recorded, among which were 1,179 indictments for sedition, than in 1879, which only figures at 803 cases in excess of 1877. Considering the facts stated as to serious crime a gradual diminution since* 1876 in the commission thereof is evident; thus offences against the person stood at 5,101 in 1877, 4,936 in 1878, and 4,409 in 1879; again offences against the person and property are shown to have been 565 in 1877, 494 in 1878, and 335 in 1879. Thefts and other similar contraventions of law are slightly more numerous in 1879 than 1877, but considerably less so than in 1878. "Good order" was more disturbed in 1879 than in 1878, yet less than in 1877. Offences against carrying out law were a little above the average in last year, those against revenue and currency have fallen off regularly since 1877, and those against public welfare (miscellaneous,) show increases on 1877 and on 1878, even if, in the latter instance, the sedition cases are left out of consideration. In Basutoland, 906 persons were accused during 1879, of these all but 26 were natives, convictions are stated to have been 785, but 29 cases went to Circuit Court, acquittals 67, and dismissals &c., 25. In 1878 of the 928 charges preferred 801 were well founded, and in 1877 of 576, 522. Comparing the 1878 and 1879 returns, decreases in the number of crimes are noticeable under classes 1, 3, and 4, and increases under classes 2 and 7.

Civil Cases.

51. A larger amount of civil business was transacted in the Magistrates' Courts in 1879 than in the two preceding years.

* The present more exact system of classification was adopted in 1877.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

In the statement for 1879, the following particulars are given:— Liquid cases, recorded 2,739, amount 55,561*l.*, withdrawn 822, 15,108*l.*, decided 1,904, awarded 37,846*l.* Illiquid, recorded 6,843, 44,633*l.*, withdrawn 2,281, 10,891*l.*, decided 4,470, 24,053*l.* Total amount awarded, 1879, 61,899*l.*; 1878, 56,379*l.*; 1877, 71,808*l.* Basutoland 1879 returns show a decrease on those for 1878 and 1877. In many cases horses and cattle are claimed and awarded.

52. Occupations of the accused have been classified according to the census method, with the following results for last year:—

——	Male whites.	Female whites.	Male blacks.	Female blacks.
Professional - -	329	3	142	0
Domestic - -	117	52	390	632
Commercial - -	1,116	4	766	20
Agricultural - -	616	6	3,157	105
Industrial - -	796	46	673	515
Indefinite and nonproductive (including "Labourers and Servants")	1,814	129	12,511	1,829

Criminal and Civil Cases.

53. Before the higher courts the criminal cases disposed of numbered 542,—699 persons being indicted, 531 of whom were convicted, 137 acquitted, and 31 dismissed or discharged; the corresponding figures for 1878 (when a large number of sedition cases were heard) are respectively 1,275 indictments, 1,018, 158, and 23 (*76 cases otherwise disposed of,) and for 1877, 676, 458, 189, and 1 (†28 cases otherwise treated). From the foregoing figures the following per-centages are derived:—

Withdrawals, &c.	- 0·00	1879	5·41	1878	2·66	1877
Convictions	-76·00	„	79·85	„	67·75	„
Acquittals -	- 19·6	„	12·31	„	27·96	„
Dismissals -	- 4·4	„	1·88	„	0·15	„
Other -	- 0·0	„	0·55	„	1·48	„

On comparing the 1878 and 1879 returns a decrease will be found under every class of crime; among offences against the person, and the person and property the following changes may be noticed:—Classes 1 and 2 (accusations), 141 and 130 in 1879, against 146 and 214 in 1878.

Civil cases.—Liquid cases to the number of 308 came before the superior courts in 1879, the amount awarded being 70,351*l.*: in 1878, 340 cases were recorded which represented the award of 93,982*l.* Illiquid cases numbered 263 against 256 in 1878.

* 64 withdrawn. † 6 withdrawn.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Insolvencies.

54. Insolvencies were less numerous than usual, the total number of estates surrendered as insolvent being 262; for the three preceding years the figures are 348, 392, and 372.

Courts of Special Justices of the Peace.

55. Courts of special justices of the peace have now been established at 14 places. Four were proclaimed and one was abolished in 1879. In 1879 532 cases were heard, 533 persons (75 male and 1 female whites, 380 male and 77 female blacks) accused; 10 cases were withdrawn or stood over, and 373 convictions, 17 acquittals, and 116 dismissals or discharges were recorded, 5 cases were otherwise disposed of, and 12 were referred to resident magistrates. Fewer persons were apprehended last year than in 1878 or 1877 (the figures are 533, 642, and 715), convictions decreased from 72·7 per cent. in 1877 to 67 per cent. in 1878, but increased to 70 per cent. in 1879; acquittals and discharges have, however, an upward tendency thus,—124 in 1877, 129 in 1878, 133 in last year.

Separate Persons.—Resident Magistrates' Courts.

56. As regards separate individuals accused, the following information may be given,—accused once 19,350 (88·52 per cent.), twice 1,676 (7·66 per cent.), thrice 509 (2·33 per cent.), four times 190 (0·87 per cent.), five times 62 (0·29 per cent.), and six times and upwards 72 (0·33 per cent.); convicted once 14,642 (88·01 per cent.), twice 1,377 (8·28 per cent.), thrice 370 (2·22 per cent.), four times 140 (0·84 per cent.), five times 49 (0·30 per cent.), and six times and upwards 59 (0·35 per cent). On comparing the per-centages for 1879, 1878, and 1877 it will be seen that there has been a gradual increase under single, and decrease under reiterated accusations and convictions.

Education.

57. On education the State expenditure during 1878–79 is returned as having been 70,082*l.* — establishments costing 2,414*l.*; exclusive of ditto, 58,242*l.*; extra Colonial, 4,424*l.*; pupil teachers' fund, 420*l.*; Basutoland establishments, 603*l.*; exclusive of ditto, 3,980*l.* The total payments are 5,649*l.* in excess of those in 1877–78, and 11,226*l.* more than in 1876–77. Public schools are 229 in number, mission ditto, 351; boarding, 37; industrial, training, and day schools (native), 168, Basutoland ditto, 56, normal schools, 2, in all 843 (an increase of 67 on 1877–78, and of 107 on 1876–77), having 66,827 children on the books, and 32,053 in daily attendance. There are now 4,618 more boys and girls at school than in 1877–78, and 5,226 more than in 1876–77, and 1,555 more in daily attendance than in 1876–77. The 607 schools inspected in 1878–79 had 39,420 names on the rolls, and 27,668 children were present on the occasion of the inspector's visit. Deputy inspectors were first appointed in 1872, and since that date 3,222 schools have been

seen, in which 154,801 boys and girls were present out of 224,951 on the books. A steady progress is noticeable in the number of children classed under the highest educational standard. The present educational system is subject to the provisions of Act No. 13 of 1865, and since that year the State expenditure has amounted to 483,188*l.*, and the local outlay to 539,614*l.*; schools have grown in number from 392 to 848, and scholars on the list from 32,875 to 67,122. Fees in public schools average—Class I., 10*s.* 8*d.* per month; Class II., 7*s.* 4*d.*; Class III., 4*s.*; in mission ditto, 1*s.* 7*d.*

University.

58. Under Act No. 16 of 1873 was incorporated the University of the Cape of Good Hope, which has since been granted Royal Letters Patent, bearing date 8th August 1877. Undergraduates: candidates to the number of 470 have been examined; of these, 208 passed, and 85 passed with honours. Graduates: candidates presenting themselves for examination were 91 in number; 58 of these passed, 6 as M.A., 4 as LL.B., and 48 as B.A. To *ad eundem* degrees 94 gentlemen have been admitted; 28 certificates of proficiency in law, and 22 of proficiency in land surveying have been granted. At the examinations in elementary subjects 947 persons were present, and 237 passed in the first class, and 398 in the second.

Ecclesiastical.

59. To the congregations of the different religious denominations there belong 326,899 persons, 197,686 being classed as whites and 129,213 as coloured; an increase of 37,826 on 1878, and of 49,078 on 1877. Comparing the returns for 1878 and 1879, it will be noticed that the number of ministers has increased from 317 to 355; the receipts from Government have fallen off 519*l.*, while the incomings from the congregation, &c. have risen from 46,193*l.* to 57,610*l.*, and contributions, exclusive of ministers' support, from 47,428*l.* to 74,586*l.*; main stations are more numerous by 99; out-stations less so by 87. The average attendance is now 108,719 persons, in buildings capable of holding 188,192; communicants now number 95,773, or 2,660 more than in 1878. Every week 2,504 services are held. At *807 evening and Sunday schools 34,813 children attend. Births, marriages, and deaths numbered in 1879 respectively 14,469, 2,718, and 3,483. Of the total number of adherents, the Dutch Church has 47·86 per cent.; the English, 13·20; Wesleyans, 13·08; Congregationalists and London Missionary Society, 9·52; Rhenish Mission, 3·30; Moravians, 2·77; Roman Catholics, 2·69; Presbyterians, 2·56; Berlin Mission, 1·26; Dutch Dissenters, 1·26; Evangelical Lutherans, ·94; German Baptist, ·70:

* Congregationalists have 6, not 106 evening schools, as wrongly stated in return Total is, therefore, 108, not 208 schools.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

English ditto, ·47; Free Evangelical, ·24; French Reformed, ·15. In Basutoland three religious bodies are at work. The number of adherents is 14,040 (161 whites); contributions amount to 1,745*l.*; communicants are 4,680 in number, and weekly services 548. Births, marriages, and deaths in 1879 were as follows: 352, 94, and 56.

Hospitals.

60. At the beginning of 1879 there were 671 patients in the several Colonial hospitals, and during the year 3,117 new cases were admitted. To attend upon these 3,788 persons, 52 nurses and 27 other servants were employed. Of patients discharged, 2,147 were cured, 2,325 relieved, 192 not improved, and 132 left the institutions. The number of deaths was 334 in 1879; in 1878 it was 413 in 4,176 cases; and in 1877, 285 in 3,670 cases. Area: the mean average length of the wards is 31 ft. 6 ins.; breadth, 17 ft., height 14 ft. 8½ ins.; on an average there are 9 to 10 beds to a ward; the maximum of patients in a ward was 8; amount of cubic space for each patient was 1,595 per ward; and the area of ventilating openings (in square feet) is 73. Diseases: in the hospitals, infirmaries, and asylums, 4,114 cases were treated in 1879, of these, 355 resulted fatally. These figures show a decrease of 22 cases and 44 deaths, as compared with 1878, and an increase of 303 cases and 66 deaths as compared with 1877. The disease table may be arranged as follows:—

	Hospitals.		Infirmary and Asylums.*	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
General diseases - - -	935	75	103	21
Local - - - -	1,445	129	723	57
Conditions (debility) - -	74	4	33	15
Poison - - - -	145	6	12	2
Injuries - - - -	514	13	5	1
Malingering and malformation (2)	15	0	—	—
Moribund - - -	25	25	—	—
Destitute and other - -	5	0	†80	7

The death rate in the hospitals is, therefore, 7·98 per cent., or, excluding the moribunds, 7·21 per cent., in the infirmaries and asylums 10·77 per cent. Average rate of mortality in 1879 was 8·63; 1878, 9·647; and 1877, 8·370 per cent.

61. The two *Lunatic Asylums* at the beginning of 1879 had 255 inmates, and during the year 56 persons were admitted (20 being females). Of the 311 patients, upon whom 48 people attended, 15 were cured, 3 relieved, and 2 left unimproved; the deaths numbered 21. At Robben Island there are 63 rooms, the gross cubic space thereof being 176,315 feet, and the average

* *I.e.*, Old Somerset Hospital, Robben Island, and Graham's Town Asylums, where *chronic sick*, &c. are cared for.

† Including 30 chronic sick (P. E. Hospital), among whom were 7 deaths.

amount of cubic space available for each patient, 1,363 feet. For the Graham's Town Asylum the corresponding figures are respectively 19, 114,433, and 2,384. On referring to the appropriation accounts, 1878–9, it will be observed that the expenditure on the Somerset Hospital was 7,339*l.*; Old ditto, 6,271*l.*; Robben Island, 16,660*l.*; King William's Town, 5,594*l.*; Graham's Town Asylum, 5,130*l.*; other hospitals, 10,707*l.* The revenue of the four aided institutions for 1879 was 9,913*l.*, 5,898*l.* being receipts from Government, and the expenditure, 9,029*l.*

62. Touching *Charitable Institutions* generally, it may be mentioned that the inmates in January 1879 numbered 1,188; 4,715 were admitted during the year; 4,204 persons were discharged, and 471 died. District surgeons treated 1,625 persons in 1879, 112 of whom died. Cases in 1878 numbered 1,913; in 1877, 820; in the former year 88 deaths happened; in the latter, 54.

63. Belonging to 58 friendly societies there were at the end of 1879, 6,575 members. According to the returns submitted by the different magistrates, 290 indoor, and 407 outdoor, paupers obtained Government assistance in 1879.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Cape Town,
Cape of Good Hope, May 1880.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE COLONY.

Year.	Actual Revenue.	Total Revenue (*i.e.*, Revenue Loans included).	Receipts from		Total Expenditure (including Expenditure on Public Works as in next column).	Expenditure on Public Works (Works and Buildings, Roads and Bridges, Railways, and Telegraphs).	Public Debt on 31st December in each Year.	
			Customs (including Harbour Dues).	Land Revenue.			General Government.	Corporate Bodies.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1870 - -	668,240	831,211	341,993	65,935	795,695	18,445	1,106,458	463,450
1871 - -	744,788	836,174	384,809	80,407	764,915	37,019	1,160,008	386,950
1872 - -	1,047,748	1,161,548	604,413	104,280	922,568	49,926	1,204,644	386,950
1873 - -	1,218,620	2,078,220	686,405	114,365	2,159,658	*1,048,779	1,723,144	390,650
1874 - -	1,538,551	1,907,951	733,513	108,565	1,357,455	383,767	2,007,559	392,150
1875 - -	1,602,918	2,246,179	735,380	120,078	2,272,275	1,298,586	2,425,359	364,850
Arrears, 1875 (brought to charge up to 30th June 1879) -	—	—	—	—	780,747	550,433	—	—
Half year, 1876	827,386	1,864,928	398,514	66,059	1,412,677	848,235	4,068,159	464,350
1876–77 -	1,319,063	2,932,413	605,981	114,108	3,503,671	†2,358,929	5,028,959	464,050
1877–78 -	‡1,586,303	3,233,161	775,776	90,325	3,627,530	1,805,876	6,986,359	462,750
1878–79 -	2,082,889	5,661,160	923,598	108,466	§3,994,933	‖1,831,910	9,527,459	489,950

* Including 810,002*l.* for purchase of Wellington Railway and line of telegraph to East London.
† Including 75,278*l.* for purchase of Wynberg Railway.
‡ Including 20,877*l.* revenue from Transkeian territories for period from 1st July 1875 to 1st July 1877.
§ Of this, expenditure under votes is 1,916,633*l.*
‖ Expenditure under votes is 403,325*l.*

Shipping, Imports, and Exports.

Year.	Shipping Inwards.		Shipping Outwards.		Imports, excluding Specie.	Exports, excluding Specie.	Exports—Produce of the Colony.					
							Wool.		Copper Ore.	Ostrich Feathers.	Angora Hair.	Skins, Sheep and Goat.
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	£	£	lbs.	Value—£	tons.	lbs.	lbs.	No.
1870	981	335,509	993	334,186	2,352,043	2,569,499	37,283,291	1,669,518	7,300	28,768	403,153	2,377,386
1871	1,029	344,037	1,019	344,652	2,585,298	3,531,609	46,279,639	2,191,233	7,351	25,481	536,292	2,687,881
1872	1,209	482,556	1,181	470,691	4,388,728	4,757,494	48,822,562	3,275,150	13,240	26,695	871,891	2,788,775
1873	1,385	612,211	1,376	593,362	5,130,065	3,907,911	40,393,746	2,710,481	11,570	31,581	765,719	2,854,913
1874	1,458	691,855	1,426	656,490	5,558,215	4,233,561	42,620,481	2,948,571	13,646	36,829	1,036,570	2,941,128
1875	1,639	909,826	1,587	898,436	5,731,319	4,207,594	40,339,674	2,855,899	12,418	49,569	1,147,453	2,862,252
1876	1,601	1,130,193	1,584	1,117,485	5,556,077	3,499,696	34,861,339	2,278,942	12,869	59,941	1,323,039	2,354,895
1877	1,615	1,262,557	1,606	1,231,768	5,158,348	3,634,073	36,020,571	2,232,755	15,244½	65,496	1,433,774	2,486,558
1878	1,830	1,635,026	1,789	1,605,672	6,151,023	3,456,291	32,127,167	1,888,928	12,641½	81,226	1,358,395	2,533,295
1879	2,238	2,139,182	2,156	2,050,868	7,080,229	3,805,609	40,087,593	2,156,609	14,178	96,582	2,288,116	2,168,445

COLONIAL EXPORTS—QUANTITIES.

Articles.	Account of the Quantities of the Principal Articles of Colonial Produce exported.									
	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.	1874.	1873.	1872.	1871.	1870.
Aloes - - - lbs.	473,143	596,223	689,427	462,976	374,142	614,272	230,351	484,532	402,113	502,291
Argol - - - „	82,563	114,392	153,455	187,301	73,229	75,598	58,708	133,189	124,795	80,762
Copper ore - - - tons	14,178	12,641½	15,244½	12,869	12,418	13,646	11,570	13,240	7,351	7,300
Corn, grain, and meal - lbs.	3,472,979	733,906	1,895,511	1,245,026	877,258	2,042,803	2,289,785	9,314,549	13,450,068	9,017,382
Cotton - - - „	11,816	2,700	6,000	574	15,352	15,117	49,376	36,795	24,990	1,928
Feathers—ostrich - - „	96,582	81,226	65,496	59,941	49,569	36,829	31,581	26,695	25,481	28,768
Fish—salted or cured - „	3,956,881	2,594,845	2,324,944	3,593,375	3,372,701	4,872,814	3,867,243	3,248,241	5,227,021	5,393,327
Fruit—dried - - „	114,955	161,694	771,548	632,274	603,931	334,562	319,145	695,343	1,099,825	503,987
Hair—Angora - - „	2,288,116	1,358,395	1,433,774	1,323,039	1,147,453	1,036,570	765,719	871,891	536,292	403,153
Hides—ox and cow - - No.	104,281	150,875	56,548	44,530	109,302	68,458	51,075	72,937	45,934	34,388
Horns—ditto - - „	251,803	268,565	145,913	102,176	114,266	134,154	139,763	136,775	99,300	78,723
Horses - - - „	207	39	14	37	29	48	107	109	189	175
Ivory - - - lbs.	79,225	149,701	137,660	161,234	143,682	73,747	90,872	87,389	37,406	52,945
Precious stones—diamonds - No.	—	—	83	150	634	2,893	13,450	45,830	35,169	5,864
Skins—goat - - - „	687,570	956,699	993,558	804,551	1,303,624	1,478,761	1,373,278	1,351,918	1,233,976	893,310
sheep - - „	1,480,875	1,576,626	1,493,000	1,550,344	1,558,628	1,462,367	1,481,635	1,436,857	1,453,905	1,484,076
Spirits, viz.:—brandy galls.	6,296	1,558	3,639	2,910	1,140	718	1,045	660	355	304
Wine—Constantia - - „	2,843	4,398	3,813	2,992	2,423	1,655	778	371	203	1,008
ordinary - - „	72,569	66,092	76,292	57,981	55,519	77,802	75,199	77,999	61,689	88,533
Wool—sheep's, fleecewashed lbs.	8,045,573	7,299,499	7,077,771	9,476,955	11,306,500	10,757,928	10,670,250	13,260,726	15,032,850	12,093,074
scoured - „	22,233,113	18,771,384	20,065,963	20,113,036	20,403,365	21,629,018	18,791,620	16,722,490	15,571,523	16,107,892
grease - „	9,808,907	6,056,284	8,876,837	5,271,348	8,629,809	10,233,535	10,931,876	18,839,346	15,675,266	9,082,325
Value of above - - £	3,582,939	3,248,708	3,450,910	3,354,919	4,006,725	4,087,539	3,731,004	4,622,711	3,373,647	2,423,705
Value of other articles of Colonial produce exported - £	81,796	64,271	91,784	44,826	81,400	51,299	30,306	43,360	34,988	30,063

Colonial Exports—Value.

Articles.	Account of the declared Value of the Principal Articles, the Produce of the Colony, exported in									
	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.	1874.	1873.	1872.	1871.	1870.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aloes - - - -	5,524	6,567	7,781	4,178	3,218	5,526	1,623	3,221	2,367	2,715
Argol - - - -	1,909	3,035	4,385	5,542	2,293	2,268	1,666	3,633	2,941	1,541
Copper ore - - -	283,885	252,485	303,645	257,155	248,537	321,434	312,221	328,458	160,956	146,368
Corn, grain, and meal - -	19,132	6,016	10,273	7,030	5,490	12,968	11,882	31,947	53,832	33,241
Cotton - - - -	290	25	150	10	628	257	2,055	1,565	1,115	91
Feathers—ostrich - -	653,756	591,859	393,406	341,020	304,933	205,640	159,677	158,024	150,499	87,074
Fish—salted or cured - -	25,997	21,145	18,975	23,696	17,823	34,339	28,157	17,408	25,367	25,976
Fruit—dried - - -	1,967	2,050	8,161	7,797	10,210	5,078	3,371	7,188	12,271	6,509
Hair—Angora - - -	130,775	108,353	116,382	113,967	133,180	107,139	45,913	58,457	43,059	26,673
Hides—ox and cow - -	39,092	61,184	32,042	20,856	38,964	49,425	42,624	45,771	29,943	21,710
Horns—ditto - - -	4,602	6,264	3,916	1,975	2,300	1,900	1,826	1,912	1,345	1,038
Horses - - - -	6,000	1,050	1,430	1,695	1,055	1,925	4,102	3,200	5,521	6,043
Ivory - - - -	23,769	50,155	50,711	58,626	60,402	26,667	32,339	23,976	9,207	13,746
Precious stones—diamonds -	—	—	330	500	1,050	8,148	25,285	306,041	403,349	153,460
Skins—goat - - -	73,675	97,042	119,338	90,907	158,404	194,323	188,826	191,503	172,055	126,112
sheep - - -	138,477	136,812	130,214	126,553	147,842	144,538	143,643	140,011	97,571	87,240
Sprits, viz.:—brandy - -	1,445	510	667	740	324	245	228	137	82	77
Wine—Constantia - -	1,940	2,805	2,126	1,703	1,356	1,272	597	248	192	777
ordinary - - -	14,095	12,423	14,223	12,027	12,817	15,876	14,488	14,861	10,742	13,887
Wool—sheep's, fleecewashed -	360,625	361,843	358,696	495,796	702,354	683,231	684,184	929,622	705,773	513,117
scoured - -	1,515,354	1,346,646	1,572,059	1,599,975	1,834,114	1,893,573	1,638,844	1,558,857	1,002,428	934,726
grease - -	280,630	180,439	302,000	183,171	319,431	371,767	387,453	786,671	443,032	221,675

COLONIAL IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION.

Articles.	Account of the Principal Articles of Merchandise Imported and Entered for Consumption.									
	1879.		1878.		1877.		1876.		1875.	
	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.
Agricultural implements - - - value £	48,319	47,988	24,704	25,557	23,144	22,713	27,868	31,258	32,430	31,153
Ale and beer - - - - galls.	807,305	809,083	705,640	730,779	951,130	881,934	724,274	737,843	617,711	611,084
Apparel and slops - - - value £	479,059	477,527	313,066	314,291	234,397	232,977	347,209	344,478	303,427	302,550
*Bags (all sorts) - - - - „	87,105	84,287	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Butter - - - - - - lbs.	765,821	692,361	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Candles - - - - - - „	1,913,481	1,853,644	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Cheese - - - - - - „	989,303	965,896	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Chicory - - - - - - „	874,570	824,446	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coffee - - - - - - „	8,622,097	8,826,621	12,622,532	10,209,404	9,449,266	7,559,905	7,442,949	6,876,420	8,925,275	7,549,913
*Confectionery - - - - - „	2,411,371	2,325,854	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corn, grain, and meal—										
Barley - - - - - „	959,320	765,670	2,507,602	2,507,452	50,160	50,160	979,081	979,081	2,300	2,300
Beans and peas - - - - - „	533,614	490,324	459,335	458,335	297,927	283,535	275,090	269,690	276,589	276,589
Bran - - - - - - „	2,251,105	2,285,900	2,161,169	2,101,169	337,478	337,478	87,430	117,430	621,980	700,700
Flour - - - - - - „	26,888,503	25,878,071	28,299,302	28,141,102	24,729,219	21,743,079	11,822,920	12,275,607	12,288,265	13,741,819
Maize - - - - - - „	18,595,186	17,925,802	31,168,676	31,058,342	3,503,536	3,503,536	2,681,655	2,681,655	1,491,978	1,490,578
Oats - - - - - - „	2,423,797	1,750,141	3,561,854	3,561,854	142,038	142,038	776,548	776,548	1,422,605	1,422,605
Wheat - - - - - - „	20,965,925	23,589,696	46,246,152	43,934,541	15,299,456	15,299,456	9,239,224	9,144,760	13,076,398	15,725,961
Cotton manufactures - - - value £	724,255	719,800	541,925	540,797	401,825	401,960	454,800	452,748	502,653	498,357

NOTE.—The Articles marked (*) were introduced into the Customs Summary for the first time in 1879.

Imports.		1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Bags - - -	£	46,670	44,308	28,757	49,018
Butter - - -	lbs.	923,749	322,914	463,297	488,344
Candles - - -	„	1,854,048	1,626,578	1,112,286	1,153,705
Cheese - - -	„	1,009,021	949,843	624,664	925,755
Chicory - - -	„	765,541	720,973	566,439	770,557
Confectionery - -	„	1,277,726	—	—	—
	and	£35,350 worth	£57,618	£41,699	£53,544
Soap, not perfumed -	lbs.	4,787,321	5,385,987	3,008,257	4,446,475

Colonial Imports and Consumption—*continued.*

Articles.	Account of the Principal Articles of Merchandise Imported and Entered for Consumption.									
	1879.		1878.		1877.		1876.		1875.	
	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.
Gunpowder - - - - - lbs.	291,793	316,489	436,122	471,197	451,862	505,727	540,585	449,238	275,421	300,686
Guns - - - - - - No.	6,867	6,366	14,182	17,362	9,585	12,160	27,466	21,654	26,961	33,531
Gun barrels - - - - - „	8	8	—	—	37	37	—	—	40	40
Haberdashery and millinery - - value £	637,168	633,779	526,604	526,931	441,157	441,029	489,588	489,003	574,221	570,886
Hardware, cutlery, and ironmongery - „	498,416	501,165	303,195	304,364	294,803	291,323	388,393	387,842	389,605	388,888
Iron—bar, bolt, and rod - - - „	31,140	31,136	20,950	21,030	21,015	20,946	40,000	39,961	45,941	45,941
Leather manufactures - - - „	345,264	344,680	287,258	287,577	227,812	230,942	319,175	315,420	286,866	286,529
Linen ditto - - - - „	79,907	78,780	52,263	52,970	47,577	47,218	61,529	60,812	58,856	61,075
Rice - - - - - - lbs.	14,583,483	10,714,675	17,038,120	14,608,211	10,489,325	9,830,701	11,146,240	9,116,958	6,069,497	7,947,358
Saddlery and harness - - - value £	107,913	106,983	66,065	66,263	44,995	44,492	57,162	57,224	63,969	63,865
Silk manufactures - - - - „	11,291	11,323	10,100	10,100	8,635	8,632	12,792	12,804	20,492	20,356
*Soap, viz.:—Not perfumed - - lbs.	6,904,310	6,567,472	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spirits - - - - - - galls.	219,009	179,437	191,172	216,953	193,151	168,218	204,659	195,107	163,986	172,903
Sugar—Unrefined - - - - lbs.	24,537,100	24,671,197	29,911,525	28,667,089	20,147,410	19,831,768	20,084,937	20,177,496	21,038,715	20,695,295
Refined or candy - - - „	1,267,524	1,194,677	1,136,177	1,084,179	644,173	637,743	754,408	818,801	608,139	707,328
Molasses - - - - „	1,181,771	934,115	171,896	202,120	220,048	237,040	305,132	257,916	924,107	924,107
Tea - - - - - - „	836,310	879,599	1,999,903	1,242,850	738,727	817,529	723,110	711,264	768,447	527,011
Tobacco—Unmanufactured - - - „	177,865	105,809	142,269	192,186	177,527	133,489	54,564	65,183	101,106	96,679
Manufactured - - - „	819,037	374,446	577,987	498,864	397,645	273,207	348,382	325,694	450,258	318,489
Cigars - - - - No.	1,208,845	1,222,545	2,006,020	1,253,520	1,037,517	2,017,610	4,592,907	5,045,481	4,649,196	4,802,708
Do. - - - - lbs.	83,420	84,535	110,527	96,756	57,002	59,229	23,527	20,446	11,138	10,440
Wine - - - - - - 'galls.	78,102	62,694	54,673	63,773	44,854	44,019	48,670	51,957	52,528	53,703
Wood, unmanufactured - - - cub. ft.	1,989,492	2,014,313	855,466	868,077	1,087,029	1,062,075	1,176,064	1,151,854	1,286,771	1,284,090
Woollen manufactures - - - value £	279,456	279,782	198,521	200,142	163,813	165,926	225,563	227,606	266,867	259,783

NOTE.—The Articles marked (*) were introduced into the Customs Summary for the first time in 1879.

Colonial Imports and Consumption—*continued.*

Articles.	Account of the Principal Articles of Merchandise Imported and Entered for Consumption.									
	1874.		1873.		1872.		1871.		1870.	
	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.
Agricultural implements - - - value £	38,178	38,661	58,515	54,556	36,761	34,253	23,778	23,928	12,541	15,329
Ale and beer - - - - - galls.	614,270	658,199	449,222	481,299	664,069	601,261	438,761	414,645	340,492	337,380
Apparel and slops - - - - value £	292,036	293,047	346,937	343,496	312,616	312,032	162,695	162,022	122,508	121,777
Coffee - - - - - - lbs.	7,969,473	6,714,900	4,242,217	6,123,434	7,854,616	6,051,617	5,566,888	6,458,921	7,179,101	5,996,376
Corn, grain, and meal—										
Barley - - - - - - ,,	3,360	3,360	1,250	1,250	—	—	—	—	600	600
Beans and peas - - - - - ,,	8,233	8,233	—	—	—	—	128	2,804	300	300
Bran - - - - - - ,,	210,505	210,505	—	—	40,390	40,390	300	300	2,400	2,400
Flour - - - - - - ,,	19,199,264	16,817,946	8,862,234	8,811,834	2,302,455	1,339,927	28,697	1,334,757	1,777,603	3,448,323
Maize - - - - - - ,,	1,086,251	1,086,251	140,309	140,309	56,530	56,530	255,663	255,663	2,000	2,000
Oats - - - - - - ,,	563,104	563,104	17,000	17,000	200	200	—	—	—	1,217
Wheat - - - - - - ,,	22,513,585	19,778,387	2,942,165	2,904,281	329,897	329,897	—	—	—	—
Cotton manufactures - - - - value £	505,791	506,458	596,087	586,686	666,599	665,871	448,758	444,627	439,086	437,850
Gunpowder - - - - - lbs.	496,654	408,544	479,518	349,413	270,310	357,539	209,102	197,884	221,082	224,937
Guns - - - - - - No.	33,777	24,869	63,206	47,837	36,480	33,162	7,222	7,222	3,841	4,029
Gun barrels - - - - - ,,	145	145	—	69	2	2	1	1	23	73
Haberdashery and millinery - - value £	574,438	576,725	631,041	618,746	474,325	473,652	284,686	284,593	249,084	248,618
Hardware, cutlery, and ironmongery - ,,	353,135	351,075	428,764	425,546	306,475	304,287	174,960	172,964	120,303	120,260
Iron—bar, bolt, and rod - - - ,,	50,803	50,803	40,915	40,671	21,275	21,200	15,795	15,744	12,733	12,733
Leather manufactures - - - ,,	247,814	247,030	264,870	264,617	306,290	306,397	102,415	101,751	96,433	96,653

Colonial Imports and Consumption—*continued.*

Articles.	Account of the Principal Articles of Merchandise Imported and Entered for Consumption.									
	1874.		1873.		1872.		1871.		1870.	
	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.	Imported.	Entered for Consumption.
Linen manufactures - - - - value £	48,772	47,947	46,058	47,070	79,270	76,738	38,217	38,776	23,251	22,576
Rice - - - - - - lbs.	13,677,343	10,826,166	7,830,172	9,122,056	9,514,095	7,061,115	6,905,526	5,381,972	11,350,115	5,069,225
Saddlery and harness - - - value £	67,128	67,287	80,133	79,280	52,030	51,994	24,132	24,209	19,854	19,962
Silk manufactures - - - - „	14,177	14,892	16,713	15,687	8,889	9,219	5,449	5,329	4,426	4,731
Spirits - - - - - - galls.	183,868	161,440	116,498	124,071	176,727	130,309	91,487	89,512	86,341	64,785
Sugar—Unrefined - - - - lbs.	21,820,145	22,210,847	20,482,524	18,495,329	16,413,348	15,350,763	14,056,216	13,423,821	15,504,822	14,050,844
Refined or candy - - - „	786,663	740,095	674,466	722,272	1,101,867	923,274	469,503	498,877	544,570	544,720
Molasses - - - - „	703,134	703,134	431,944	519,474	370,400	365,220	874,157	863,572	532,076	518,849
Tea - - - - - - „	915,816	925,436	908,462	618,136	778,651	518,711	396,147	471,427	869,186	378,951
Tobacco—Unmanufactured - - - „	182,711	144,621	41,726	57,127	83,241	66,282	318,259	45,126	164,644	36,032
Manufactured - - - „	277,937	292,698	314,951	212,832	194,123	166,285	220,549	127,237	155,991	140,299
Cigars - - - - No.	4,888,179	4,649,429	7,978,276	7,358,106	9,566,682	7,857,682	2,206,310	3,531,610	3,095,250	2,191,050
Do. - - - - lbs.	6,745	6,348	16,879	14,196	8,421	7,961	2,301	2,489	1,369	1,392
Wine - - - - - - galls.	51,017	45,926	66,220	52,301	73,333	55,255	24,933	24,270	21,523	15,749
Wood, unmanufactured - - - cub. ft.	1,131,274	1,131,274	546,325	548,926	513,837	513,837	400,724	400,724	402,696	402,696
Woollen manufactures - - - value £	295,680	295,068	310,827	295,915	204,860	205,323	162,284	162,133	126,415	125,371
Total value of above - £	3,882,946	3,774,395	3,731,416	3,675,864	3,226,346	3,094,089	1,946,780	1,943,745	1,769,339	1,688,839
Total value of other - £	1,675,289	1,649,878	1,398,649	1,366,697	1,162,382	1,116,437	638,518	601,128	582,704	548,668

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AND COLONIAL REVENUE.

Year.	Statement of Imports and Exports.							
	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.		Total Value.	
	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports from.	Exports to.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1870 - -	1,806,305	2,121,149	270,384	117,672	275,354	330,678	2,352,043	2,569,499
1871 - -	2,059,915	2,723,900	235,747	140,406	289,636	667,303	2,585,298	3,531,609
1872 - -	3,643,044	3,502,422	318,630	124,925	427,054	1,130,147	4,388,728	4,757,494
1873 - -	4,352,239	3,377,156	400,208	116,472	377,618	414,283	5,130,065	3,907,911
1874 - -	4,351,432	3,722,118	563,802	146,309	642,981	365,134	5,558,215	4,233,561
1875 - -	4,712,203	3,816,749	449,308	149,416	569,808	241,429	5,731,319	4,207,594
1876 - -	4,631,305	3,228,341	403,979	98,770	520,793	172,585	5,556,077	3,499,696
1877 - -	4,099,310	3,299,557	522,469	85,251	626,569	249,265	5,158,348	3,634,073
1878 - -	4,505,132	3,190,716	912,497	149,682	733,394	115,893	6,151,023	3,456,291
1879 - -	5,732,233	3,388,299	662,099	170,604	683,809	246,706	*7,080,229	3,805,609

* Including 2,088*l.* from ports unknown.

Imports and Exports, and Colonial Revenue—*continued.*

Heads of Revenue.	Statement of Actual Revenue in Detail.									
	1878–79.	1877–78.	1876–77.	Half year 1876.	1875.	1874.	1873.	1872.	1871.	1870.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	923,597	775,776	605,981	398,514	735,380	733,513	686,405	604,413	384,809	341,993
Land sales	46,081	50,913	63,330	51,564	161,295	11,847	15,823	44,061	16,612	43,995
Land revenue	108,466	90,325	114,108	66,059	120,078	108,565	114,365	104,280	80,407	65,970
Rents (exclusive of lands)	3,855	2,717	2,503	1,239	1,261	2,208	1,965	1,841	1,296	1,014
Transfer dues	86,703	72,082	77,368	41,744	92,625	91,224	84,416	52,541	35,668	35,238
Auction dues	26,960	19,652	20,999	12,917	25,758	25,243	18,777	17,489	12,053	12,302
Succession dues	7,565	7,222	6,193	2,344	8,897	6,251	4,386	6,970	4,067	4,776
Taxes, house duty	58,428	8	18	111	998	3,204	22,508	23,119	31,426	10,028
Stamps and stamped licences	118,872	99,981	97,846	70,813	96,760	92,418	83,035	76,738	67,601	65,464
Bank notes duty	8,388	6,957	8,136	12,179	14,889	15,388	15,037	7,984	4,130	3,248
Postage	70,542	61,482	60,306	28,594	53,129	48,567	41,479	32,441	28,398	26,479
Excise duty	63,522	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	15,113	15,673	17,894	9,774	23,259	16,485	12,670	12,269	11,045	12,619
Fees of office		5,991	8,078	3,736	7,751	6,300	6,194	4,731	3,996	4,680
Sales of Government property	11,943	2,744	3,165	185	1,795	1,835	3,534	629	866	1,014
Reimbursements	58,107	36,101	18,011	7,928	33,042	28,427	20,033	28,230	25,671	27,150
Miscellaneous receipts	3,237	5,569	163	475	637	580	1,269	81	204	131
Interest and premiums	21,851	3,016	4,497	18,723	10,067	5,365	2,999	3,628	3,085	4,105
Special receipts	3,091	2,368	2,369	1,945	100,817	225,645	11,552	18,442	23,331	1,185
Railway receipts	396,162	274,545	186,439	89,050	104,380	84,377	63,950	—	—	—
Telegraph receipts	29,633	23,419	21,658	9,492	10,099	9,578	3,362	—	—	—
Revenue from Transkeian territories	20,773	8,886	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,082,889	1,565,427†	1,319,062	827,386	1,602,917	1,518,020*	1,213,759*	1,039,888*	734,665*	661,391*

* Excluding arrear advances repaid.

† Excluding 20,877*l.* revenue from Transkeian territories for period from 1st July 1875 to 1st July 1877.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

LAND.

Year.	Granted up to 31st December in each Year.	Sold up to 31st December in each Year.	Year.	Granted up to 31st December in each Year.	Sold up to 31st December in each Year.
	acres.	acres.		acres.	acres.
1870 -	*54,333,167	*7,339,350	1875 -	54,535,812	12,762,693
1871 -	54,377,175	7,457,267	1876 -	54,548,112	13,974,669
1872 -	54,434,720	8,263,193	1877 -	54,554,048	14,483,644
1873 -	54,468,442	10,162,708	1878 -	54,566,773	15,393,014
1874 -	54,518,759	11,323,265	1879 -	54,985,550	16,848,682

* Including King William's Town and East London Divisions from this date.

BANKS.

Year.	Number.	Paid-up Capital.	Reserve Fund.	Circulation.
		£	£	£
1867 -	—	—	—	—
1868 -	26	1,898,246	152,938	222,349
1869 -	25	1,732,899	167,251	223,521
1870 -	25	1,695,482	168,293	298,889
1871 -	25	1,555,084	177,619	958,763
1872 -	24	1,517,171	129,756	1,080,072
1873 -	21	2,833,768	628,518	1,034,089
1874 -	19	2,854,109	721,663	886,697
1875 -	19	2,941,908	800,160	695,105
1876 -	19	2,944,114	852,160	480,106
1877 -	14	2,456,801	871,458	518,918
1878 -	12	2,685,974	799,942	685,206
1879 -	11	2,676,349	884,889	721,469

FRANCHISE.

Year.	Number of Representatives.	Number of Electors.	Year.	Number of Representatives.	Number of Electors.
1867	66	34,235	1874	68	42,983
1868	66	35,736	1875	68	42,983
1869	66	35,736	1876	68	45,825
1870	66	35,388	1877	68	45,825
1871	66	35,388	1878	68	44,675
1872	66	39,588	1879	68	44,675
1873	66	39,588			

EDUCATION.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.	State Expenditure.	Local Expenditure.
			£	£
1870 -	438	40,412	23,045	24,145
1871 -	486	43,099	23,918	27,145
1872 -	515	46,245	25,267	28,342
1873 -	540	49,660	27,982	31,245
1874 -	593	51,254	31,444	34,265
1875 -	641	54,167	40,264	43,595
½-year 1876 -	628	47,087	24,008	32,625
1876–77 -	736	61,601	58,856	60,803
1877–78* -	780	62,420	64,433	65,929
1878–79† -	848	67,122	70,082	81,012

* Including four colleges. † Including five colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Year.	Number of Persons who Matriculated.	Number of Persons who took direct Degrees.	Number of Persons admitted *ad eundem*.
1874 -	31	7	14
1875 -	34	13	24
1876 -	60	11	19
1877 -	49	8	7
1878 -	73	11	11
1879 -	46	8	19

RAILWAYS (REVISED).

Year.	No. of Miles open to end of each Year.	Passengers.* Numbers.	Passengers and Miscellaneous. Amount.	Goods. Tonnage.	Goods. Amount.	Total Receipts.	Working Expenses.
			£		£	£	£
1873	63½	436,512	35,802	66,328	29,774	65,576	42,768
1874	63½	502,358	40,668	80,928	41,730	82,398	53,083
1875	148	625,281	55,406	101,965	55,336	110,742	76,072
1876	208¼	756,997	83,088	137,610	80,266	163,354	113,956
1877	404¼	810,836	102,049	177,204	114,520	216,569	179,834
1878	663½	960,576	135,212	246,626½	190,912	326,124	274,050
1879	751	1,155,247	181,875	298,716	294,593	476,468	356,240

* Exclusive of Season Ticket Holders.

TELEGRAPHS AND POSTAGE.

TELEGRAPHS.

Year.	Number of Miles of Line open.	Number of Miles of Wire.	Number of Offices.	Actual Cost of Construction.	Profits shown on Working.	Actual Revenue.	Actual Expenditure.	Number of Messages.						
								Private.	Press.	Ditto. Number of Words.	Government.	Military.	Railway Service.	Total.
				£	£	£	£							
1873 -	846*	—*	19*	—	—	3,794*	2,697*	11,307*	—	190,016*	3,296*	—	—	14,503*
1874 -	945	945	22	59,505	5,285	9,252	8,378	36,095	—	126,853	9,144	295	—	45,534
1875 -	1,640	2,040	37	112,212	2,657	10,396	11,982	54,997	4,359	432,692	10,793	1,061	—	71,210
1876 -	2,089	2,676	65	165,539	6,939	20,627	19,306	99,693	6,241	701,619	15,643	1,163	3,979	126,719
1877 -	2,450	3,154	82	185,831	2,009	20,116	25,625	134,999	9,951	1,084,835	25,720	5,492	6,952	183,114
1878 -	2,713	3,575	98	204,444	14,624	26,812	29,809	191,350	11,511	1,066,908	46,223	24,024	11,655	284,763
1879 -	2,713	3,575	100	206,089	14,255	33,718	35,476	217,592	10,842	1,062,246	42,770	8,039	23,825	303,068

* Return for half-year 1873.

Year.	Statement showing Number of Letters, Papers, and Books despatched from General Post Office, Cape Town, as specified below, &c. during Years 1873 to 1879 inclusive.										POSTAGE.			
	Mails despatched to England.			Mails despatched Inland from Cape Town.			Weight of Mails Despatched.		Number of Registered Letters passing through General Post Office, Cape Town.	Number of Dead Letters returned.		Expenditure.	Principal Sources of Revenue.		Weight of Registered Packets addressed to England, &c. supposed to contain Diamonds.
	Letters.	Papers.	Books.	Letters.	Papers.	Books.	By Coasting Steamer.	By Post Cart to the E. & N.E. Frontier.		Colonial.	Other.		Postage.	Premiums on Money Orders.	
							lbs.	lbs.				£	£	£	lbs.
1873 -	176,882	158,292	11,948	611,760	676,483	43,446	31,821	131,624	21,798	8,210	2,300	63,297	41,478	909	—
1874 -	194,371	135,513	13,230	653,654	887,976	83,586	31,511	159,961	21,521	5,200	2,121	90,629	48,567	1,019	474
1875 -	239,078	268,466	11,656	694,476	996,825	95,653	75,198	169,022	27,011	9,442	2,939	102,708	53,129	1,325	650
1876 -	254,708	218,399	10,420	830,692	1,163,228	128,590	82,163	189,066	32,890	7,015	4,076	98,565	56,411	1,407	702
1877 -	313,882	260,561	11,604	909,690	1,183,975	131,689	94,109	200,624	36,105	10,017	5,262	151,221	57,687	1,698	850
1878 -	333,672	454,111	10,764	989,764	1,417,846	186,742	148,748	196,590	40,074	8,769	7,596	152,319	65,574	4.033	1,149
1879 -	399,542	341,523	11,789	1,124,953	1,843,095	147,762	157,285	204,331	52,921	9,580	6,302	164,189	74,730	1,558	1,174

Census Results.

Year.	Population.						Persons to the Square Mile.			Edifices.		Houses.			Huts and Tents.	Education.					
																European or White.			Exclusive of European or White.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	European or White.	Hottentot.	All Others.	European or White.	Hottentot.	All Others.	Uninhabited.	Building.	One Room and upwards.	Unspecified.	Total.		Read and Write.	Read only.	Neither Read nor Write.	Read and Write.	Read only.	Neither Read nor Write.
1865	255,760	240,621	496,381	181,592	81,598	233,191	0·91	0·41	1·17	—	—	—	—	—	—	110,301	7,684	63,607	15,252	15,142	284,395
1875	369,628	351,356	720,984	236,783	98,561	385,640	1·18	0·49	1·93	27,713	526	45,102	10,110	55,212	76,022	147,627	9,298	79,858	29,864	19,775	434,562

Year.	Ages of the People.												Birthplaces of the People.							
	Under 15 years.		15 years and under 40.		40 years and under 55.		55 years and under 70.		70 years and upwards.		Unspecified.		Europe.		South Africa.		Elsewhere.		Unspecified.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1865 -	102,602	99,532	97,856	89,671	29,025	23,878	9,856	9,296	3,142	3,033	13,279	15,211	16,499	9,820	237,531	229,817	1,730	984	—	—
1875 -	158,844	155,672	139,983	133,608	43,062	35,746	16,269	14,248	6,097	6,386	5,373	5,696	19,737	9,369	338,950	333,465	1,464	895	9,477	7,627

Year.	Occupations.											
	Professional.		Domestic.		Commercial.		Agricultural.		Industrial.		Indefinite and Non-productive.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1865 - -	4,041	639	6,691	24,444	7,155	274	73,178	1,534	12,434	3,582	152,261	210,148
1875 - -	6,655	1,261	8,806	74,460	12,992	325	128,600	80,536	18,535	5,744	194,040	189,030

NOTE.—It should be borne in mind that a large external addition of Population, &c. has been made since the Census of 1875, by the Annexation to this Colony of British Kaffraria.

Year.	Total Areas.		Land under Cultivation.—Area in Morgen.*										Number of Vines.
	Of Holdings.	Of Land under Cultivation.	For Wheat.	For Barley.	For Rye.	For Oats.	For Maize and Millet.	For Peas, Beans, and Pulse.	For Potatoes.	For Orchards, Gardens, and Orangeries.	For Tobacco.	For Cotton.	For Vineyards.	
1865 - - -	20,464,602	217,692	95,560	16,333	11,496	47,063	23,683	4,150	6,069	4,762	933	—	7,643	55,300,025
1875 - - -	39,947,734	274,413	88,985	13,786	20,284	54,169	62,037	3,837	4,258	7,028	1,243	121	8,588	69,910,215

Agricultural Produce.													Pastoral Products.		
Wheat.	Barley.	Rye.	Oats.	Oathay.	Maize and Millet.	Peas, Beans, and Pulse.	Potatoes.	Tobacco.	Dried Fruits.	Aloes.	Wine.	Brandy and Spirits.	Wool.	Mohair.	Ostrich Feathers.
bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	100 lbs.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	imp. galls.	imp. galls.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1,389,766	308,318	174,017	433,342	568,749	324,684	40,220	184,738	1,632,746	3,342,014	293,408	3,237,428	430,956	18,905,936	—	—
1,687,935	447,991	214,260	918,494	937,363	1,113,007	60,636	371,523	3,060,241	2,672,761	337,910	4,485,665	1,067,832	28,316,181	128,128	7,143

Year.	Live Stock.										
	Horses.	Mules and Asses.	Draught Cattle.	Other Cattle.	Woolled Sheep.	Other Sheep.	Angora Goats.	Other Goats.	Pigs.	Ostriches.	Dogs.
1865 - -	226,610	24,279	249,307	443,207	8,370,179	1,465,886	121,424	2,316,020	78,666	80	—
1875 - -	205,085	29,318	421,762	689,951	9,986,240	990,423	877,988	2,187,214	116,738	21,751	140,948

* The morgen is = 2·11654 English acres.

ST. HELENA.

No. 18.

Governor Janisch, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart.

Sir, St. Helena, February 26, 1880.

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1879, which was prepared, as far as it could be, for transmission by the January mail, but was unavoidably delayed in consequence of the non-arrival of the accounts from the Crown Agents for December, without which the returns could not be completed.

2. The Revenue for the year 1879 amounts to 14,154*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, which is an excess over the estimate of 1,452*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* It corresponds, however, under the several heads with the Revenue for the preceding year which was 14,197*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*

3. The Expenditure amounts to 12,486*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, showing a clear saving as compared with the Revenue of 1,668*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, and a decrease of 328*l.* as compared with the expenditure of the previous year. On the Expenditure properly pertaining to the year there is really a larger decrease, because the repairs of Flood damages in 1878 amounted to 1,473*l.*, and only 591*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* has been expended for this service in 1879; there is also a decrease this year of 73*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* in the charge for Interest in consequence of the reduction of the Debt. The difference arises from there being no charge made in 1878 for Pensions paid at the Cape of Good Hope on account of this Government and which amounted to 690*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

4. The cost of the whole of the Establishments was only 5,175*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* The Pensions absorbed 3,013*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, and the Works and Buildings and Public Roads have cost 1,665*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, in which is included the special expenditure before mentioned for repairs of Flood damages, 591*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

5. The only change in the Establishment was occasioned by the death of Mr. Edward Cole, the Colonial Surgeon, and the appointment of Mr. Bertram Janisch, M.B., as his successor.

6. One Pensioner was added to the list, viz., James Sefton, watchman in the Customs Department, aged 70, who was granted a retiring allowance of 57*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, and the list has been decreased by the following deaths, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	
Mr. Henry Mapleton - -	60	0	0	per annum.
Mr. Robert S. Gunnell - -	107	6	8	„
Mrs. C. Shipway - - -	37	14	4	„
John Euley - - -	14	12	0	„
Mr. B. Janisch (re-employed) -	5	15	0	„
	225	8	0	

ST. HELENA.

The total of the Pension List had therefore decreased on 31st December 1879 to 2,816*l.*

7. The Public Debt on debentures has been reduced by the regulated annual payment of 750*l.* and is now 11,500*l.* If further credit be taken for other assets, cash, &c., the total liability on the 31st December was reduced to 8,579*l.*

8. The Savings Bank Deposits in the care of Government on the 31st December amounted to 3,937*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.*; they have gradually and steadily increased during the last seven years from 1,099*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* in 1872 to the present amount at the end of 1879.

9. The whole of these Deposits was held in cash in the Treasury chest on the 31st December, but under your instructions received last month 2,000*l.* has since been remitted to the Crown Agents for investment in England, so that the cost for interest and management, which has hitherto been a dead charge, will in future be provided for from the sums invested.

10. The Imports for 1879 amount to 64,585*l.* as compared with 60,604*l.* in 1878, and the Exports 5,127*l.* with 12,653*l.* in the previous year. In addition to this the amount for oil from the Southern Whale Fishery transhipped at this port to the United States was 32,190*l.* with 25,100*l.* in 1878.

11. I regret that the preparation of the Island grown Fibre from the "Phormium Tenax" has not progressed as was expected. The Fibre is still of the best quality, but the prices of fibre in the London market have fallen so very considerably that the Company have for the present suspended their works, and for the time they are carried on only partially by the enterprise of a private individual; 615 bales of the value of 1,867*l.* were shipped to London during the year.

12. The Shipping calling at this port included 26 vessels of war, 39 merchant steamers, 479 merchant vessels, and 59 whalers. The tonnage (exclusive of the ships of war) being 425,811.

13. In the Foreigh Consulates, Mr. George W. Roosevelt was appointed on 30th of June to succeed Mr. Siler as Consul for the United States, and Mr. Henry J. Bovell has been appointed Vice-Consul.

14. The returns of Gaols and Prisoners show the usual favourable results. In the Superior Court there was only one conviction for an indictable offence (a case of larceny). Nor has there been a lawsuit of any kind in the Island during the last two years. The summary cases before the magistrates were 229, all of a trivial nature and, as before stated, these cases are confined chiefly to disorderly conduct of seamen from the passing shipping, and the women who associate with them.

15. In the Schools there were 1,150 pupils, and the annual examinations showed that the Schools both of the Government and the Public and Charitable Societies were well attended and well managed.

16. As an instance of one which reflects the greatest credit on the master, the Government School kept in the country by Mr.

ames Storer deserves to be specially mentioned. He has the aid of only one pupil-teacher, and has under his care 154 boys and girls, nearly all coloured children of a country population, many of them coming from scattered cottages situated at a great distance from the school and in the loftiest parts of the Island, where weather combined with distance would often make their attendance difficult. Yet the proficiency in this school is in the highest degree pleasing and satisfactory, the more so as it was not confined to a few pupils chosen for exhibition, but the whole school was fairly tested at the examination with the same result. Their arithmetic extended to compound fractions in which questions were worked out with rapidity and accuracy, and the other branches were in the same proportion.

17. I have no doubt that it is from the happy influence of these schools that offences have so greatly diminished of late years, that serious crime is almost unknown, and that there has not been an execution of a native for more than 50 years. In the early part of this century before the establishment of Free Schools for the coloured population the prevalence of crime was a matter of frequent anxiety. Governor Patton in a Minute in 1802, records that in *six months* from authenticated returns the stolen property from 22 proprietors included,—2 cattle, 186 sheep, 279 goats, 22 hogs, 129 fowls, 34 bushels of potatoes, 3,792 lbs. of yams, 12 cwt. soap, &c., &c., and yet at that date the population did not amount to one half of the present number. The result has clearly proved that, in this Island at least, full Schools under good tutors ensure empty Prisons. I must, however, add that there are a number of "waifs aud strays" who show that the work is still very incomplete.

18. In the Hospital there were 190 admissions in the year, chiefly sailors, being an increase of 37 on the previous year. There were 28 fever cases, but most of these were from the American frigate "Ticonderoga," whose crew were suffering from disease contracted on the West Coast of Africa. The other cases of fever were from vessels homeward bound from Java and Mauritius. There were also 21 admissions for scurvy, of which 13 were from foreign vessels and the remainder from English vessels from the Australian guano islands. There were 17 deaths, but of these 8 were admitted in a moribund condition.

19. In the Lunatic Asylum, which is under the management of the Overseers of the Poor, there remained only two inmates at the close of the year. The numbers having been reduced by the removal of four, who were harmless idiots, to the Poor House in James' Town. The only death was that of a female patient, aged 85 years, from cerebral apoplexy.

20. Under the head of Local Revenue will be found the account of the sums raised for the relief of the poor, 1,260*l.*; which was expended as follows:—297*l.* for the Lunatic Asylum, 257*l.* for the Poor House, 320*l.* for out-door Paupers, 260*l.* for Surgeon and Assistant Overseer, and the remainder for burial expenses, medicines, and sundries.

ST. HELENA.

21. Mr. Deason, the enterprising farmer of Longwood, has at some considerable expense landed a couple of pairs of Ostriches, in the hope that the climate will be suitable for rearing such birds. The Ostriches seem already acclimatized and are laying well, but it is too early yet to foresee what may be the result of this experiment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUDN. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.

MALTA.

No. 19.

Governor Sir A. BORTON, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, June 26, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1879, to which I append, for your Lordship's information, a few remarks by Sir Victor Houlton, the Chief Secretary to the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BORTON,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
SIR, June 26, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the annual Blue Book for the year 1879, appending a few remarks for your Excellency's information.

Legislation.

1.—The following four Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government, and promulgated during the year 1879 :—

(1.) "To amend the law relating to the carrying out of the "punishment of death."

(2.) "For applying a sum not exceeding 25,396*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* to the "service of the year 1878;"

(3.) "For applying a sum not exceeding 111,253*l.* to the service "of the year 1880;" and

(4.) "To make some provisions concerning the ventilation of "public sewers."

Finance.

2.—(1.) The gross revenue for 1879 was :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Local - - - - -	176,199	15	11½
Crown Agents for the Colonies in London -	7,595	0	2
	183,794	16	1½

	£	s.	d.
(2.) The average revenue for the five years preceding 1879, after deducting all exceptional items, was - - -	174,874	13	4
Deducting from the gross revenue of 1879 the products of land sales - -	218	4	2½
And sale of Government property - -	164	7	8¾
	382	11	11¼

(which are for investment in consols), the revenue of 1879 will be 183,412*l.* 4*s.* 2¼*d.*, or 8,537*l.* 10*s.* 10¼*d.* above the average revenue of the five preceding years, and 11,358*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* above that of 1878.

(3.) The provision for meeting the demands of 1879 was:—

Estimated Expenditure.

——	General Estimates.			Supplementary Estimates.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Establishments - -	76,576	15	3	1,582	10	7	78,159	5	10
Exclusive of establishments - - -	84,443	0	0	36,156	7	10¾	120,599	7	10¾
	161,019	15	3	37,738	18	5¾	198,758	13	8¾

Actual Expenditure.

——	General Estimates.			Supplementary Estimates.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d	£	s.	d.
Establishments - -	74,681	17	5¾	1,390	19	7	76,072	17	0¾
Exclusive of establishments - - -	77,744	11	0¼	32,128	17	6	109,873	8	6¼
	152,426	8	6	33,519	17	1	185,946	5	7

(4.) The general financial statement of Malta may be summarily stated as follows:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Cash in local treasury on 31st December 1879, and cash with Crown Agents for the Colonies - - - - -	21,417	7	0¼
Outstanding balances - - -	331	9	8¾
Advances - - - - -	8,711	17	10
Stock in consols, calculated at 92 per cent. (say) - - - - -	223,873	2	1
	254,333	16	8

Debits.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Liabilities on deposit account - - -	225,984	8	3¼			
Liabilities on Scotch Church account -	1,097	0	0			
Balance of land sales and sales of Government property account -	367	7	5½			
				227,448	15	8¾
Credit balance on assets - -				26,885	0	11¼

Civil Establishments.

3. The situations of Collector of Land Revenue and Comptroller of Charitable Institutions continued vacant during the year, pending the adoption of the suggestions contained in Sir Penrose Julyan's report on the working of the Civil Establishments of this Colony.

The office of Rector of the University has also remained vacant, pending the adoption of Mr. Keenan's report on the Educational Establishments.

Military Expenditure.

4. The total military expenditure incurred by Great Britain in the year 1879 amounted to 285,308*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, of which 5,000*l.* were contributed, as usual, by the Colony.

Pensions.

5. The total amount of pensions on the 31st December 1879 amounted to 9,784*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, of which 403*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* were granted during that year.

The total amount of pensions which lapsed amounted to 1,135*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*

Population.

6. The population of these Islands on the 31st December was reported to be as follows :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Malta	67,457	67,587	135,044	Not including the Queen's troops and their families.
Gozo -	9,502	9,652	19,154	
	76,959	77,239	154,198	

showing an increase of 1,645 on the population as on 31st December 1878, and of 11,195 on that reported on 31st December 1869.

The population to the square mile is now as follows:—

Malta	1,490	not including the Queen's troops and their families.
Gozo	957	

The number of births was 5,355; marriages, 927; and deaths, 3,710.

Imports and Exports.

7. The customs statistics for 1879 give the following results:—

Imports.

	£		£	
Value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	794,565	against	819,908	in 1878.
And value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same bottoms -	18,695,066	„	15,116,015	„
	19,489,631	„	15,935,923	„
viz.:—				
From the United Kingdom - - -	97,042	„	115,412	„
From the British Colonies - -	1,590	„	34,372	„
From H.M. Ships in port - - -	1,360	„	19	„
From foreign countries -	19,389,639	„	15,786,120	„
	19,489,631		15,935,923	„

Exports.

	£		£	
Value of exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port -	216,050	against	160,821	in 1878.
And value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottoms -	16,724,817	„	15,088,620	„
	16,940,867	„	15,249,441	„
viz.:—				
To the United Kingdom	5,257,363	„	5,081,680	„
To the British Colonies	1,768,949	„	1,293,291	„
To H.M. Ships -	6,797	„	2,387	„
To foreign countries -	9,907,758	„	8,872,083	„
	16,940,867		15,249,441	

MALTA.

It is to be observed that the foregoing sums refer only to articles liable to import duty in Malta, there being no means to calculate the value of other imports or exports.

The quantities of articles on which duty was levied in 1879 are the following:—

Beer	Barili	41,403
Grain:		
Wheat	Salms	101,599
Indian corn	„	812
Barley	„	5,817
Saggina	„	2,352
Inferior	„	52
Damaged	„	7,746
Manufactured	Cantars	3,340
„ damaged	„	1,274
Oil	Caffisi	58,304
Potatoes	Cantars	49,912
Pulse	Salms	25,601
Seeds	Cantars	44,686
Spirits	Barili	10,676
Vinegar	„	1,103
Wine:		
Superior	„	1,575
Inferior	„	189,650
Cattle:		
Bullocks	No.	9,281
Horses	„	233
Mules	„	10

The duty levied on the articles above enumerated amounted to 110,381*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*

Shipping.

8. The shipping movement in the ports during the year, as compared with 1878, is as follows:—

STEAM VESSELS.

—	1878.	1879.	Decrease.	Aggregate Tonnage.	
				1878.	1879.
British	2,945	2,612	333	2,940,915	2,781,806
Foreign	399	282	117		

Decrease 159,109 tons.

SAILING VESSELS.

—	1878.	1879.	Decrease.	Aggregate Tonnage.	
				1878.	1879.
British and Foreign	1,979	1,851	128	237,444	218,387

Decrease 19,057 tons.

Education.

9. *University and Lyceums.*—The number of students in the University and Lyceums in the year 1879 was as follows:—

	No.
University - - - - -	233
Lyceum of Valletta - - - -	489
Lyceum of the Three Cities - - -	46
	768

Infant, Primary, and Secondary Schools.—The number of children attending these schools during the year was:—

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Infant schools - - -	386	404	790
Primary schools - -	3,736	4,448	8,184
Secondary schools - -	32	94	126
			9,868

The total cost of these educational establishments amounted in 1879 to 10,767*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

Charitable Institutions.

10. The Hospital returns for the year 1879 give the following information;—

CENTRAL HOSPITAL.

—	Remaining in Hospital at the beginning of 1879.	Admitted during the Year 1879.	Daily average in Hospital during the Year 1878.	Discharged.	Died.
Males - -	84	1,199	78	1,158	134
Females -	89	747	84	632	108

SANTO SPIRITO HOSPITAL.

—	Remaining in Hospital at the beginning of 1879.	Admitted during the Year 1879.	Daily average in Hospital during the Year 1879.	Discharged.	Died.
Males - -	25	277	24	228	48
Females -	17	177	13	151	30

HOSPITAL AT GOZO.

Males - -	9	135	10	107	32
Females -	12	154	9	117	40

The patients in the lunatic asylum are classified as follows :—

—	Males.	Females.
(1.) Maniacal and dangerous - - -	76	66
(2.) Quite chronic - - - -	50	58
(3.) Melancholy and suicidal - - -	38	55
(4.) Idiotic, paralytic, and epileptic - -	28	30
	192	189
	381	

The following statement shows the number of persons relieved or maintained in the charitable institutions hereunder mentioned during 1879 :—

Institutions.	Number of Persons relieved or maintained.	Average daily Number during the Year.
Hospital of Incurables - - -	280	230
Poorhouse, Malta - - - -	841	693
Magdalen Asylum - - - -	22	11
Foundling Hospital - - - -	33	15
Poorhouse, Gozo - - - -	195	155
Orphan Asylum - - - -	140	127

The average number of persons receiving out-door relief from public funds during the year 1879 was 1,725.

The total expense of the hospitals, lunatic asylum, and other charitable institutions (including the prison for women annexed to the poorhouse at Floriana) amounted to 26,279*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*

General Remarks.

The comparative statement of the revenue derived from the customs showed a grand total of receipts of 120,571*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, which, although inferior by 2,963*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* to last year's exceptionally high amount of receipts, is nevertheless in excess by 9,887*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* of the estimated revenue for the year. Consumption operations, considerably greater than the ordinary requirements usually demand, have been effected under wine inferior (increase 3,026*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*), potatoes (682*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*), damaged grain (371*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*), pulse (230*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*), besides slight increases under mules, inferior grain, manufactured grain, and vinegar. But occurrences have taken place which have sensibly depressed the revenue derived from other sources; and principally under wheat (decrease 2,047*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*), barley (1,233*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*), spirits (1,385*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*), tonnage dues (656*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*), store rent (1,149*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*). The most important amongst these decreases, and the one which may be taken to indicate "decreased prosperity" is certainly that under "tonnage dues." As regards steam vessels, the decrease of arrivals may be in part due to the improved construction of marine engines, by which, great economy of fuel and increased speed being obtained, large steamers are now enabled to run the whole distance between the port of departure and that of arrival without touching at intermediate ports. And thus it is that now many vessels merely sight the Island and proceed on their voyage without entering our harbours.

In the admininistration of this Government important changes have been effected, since the beginning of the current year, in Council, in sympathy with suggestions made in two reports, one by Sir Penrose G. Julyan, K.C.M.G., C.B., respecting the establishments of the Island, and proposing alterations therein, and another, a very important and able report, by Mr. P. Keenan, C.B., on the educational establishments of the Island, advocating the greater extension of the English language in Malta. With regard to the first of the above-quoted reports, which was principally dealt with during the last session of the Council, most of the proposals of Sir Penrose Julyan have been agreed to by the Council and are now in force in the Island; and with regard to the second, which of necessity entails a larger time to develop, the first step towards the attainment of this great end has been taken by the appointment of a director of all the educational establishments.

The health of the Island has been good throughout the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VICTOR HOULTON.

Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency

General Sir Arthur Borton, G.C.M.G., C.B.

&c. &c. &c.

HELIGOLAND,

HELIGOLAND.

No. 20.

Governor Sir H. F. B. MAXSE, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Heligoland, May 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the annual Blue Book for 1879.

2. Both revenue and expenditure show a decrease, in consequence on the one hand of the bad bathing season, the only source of revenue, and on the other, happily, of the little damage done to the sea defences, more particularly on Sandy Island. I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship that this latter head of expenditure is a lottery dependent each successive year entirely on the weather during spring tides, and at times forming a very considerable burden on the Island funds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FITZ MAXSE.

The Right Hon.
the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 21.

Governor LEES, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House, Labuan,
July 6, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book returns for the Colony of Labuan for the year 1879.

Revenue.

2. The total revenue received amounted to $36,200.16 cents, of which $3,336.74 cents were contributed by the sale of the copper coinage of the Straits Settlements. Had the Coal Company been able to meet its engagements the revenue received would have been increased by the sum of $2,640 for rent. As it was, the Company only paid half the rental for the mines ($4,800) and none of the rental for land ($240) and, unfortunately for the Colony, was compelled, from lack of funds, to put a stop to its mining operations on the 13th August. The amount realised from the excise farms of opium, tobacco, spirits, fish, and from the pawnbroking farm was $23,790. The amounts realised from the

same sources since the abolition of the monopoly of the export trade in opium have been as follows:—

	$
1874 - - -	19,104
1875 - - -	17,400
1876 - - -	21,120
1877 - - -	21,900
1878 - - -	23,040
1879 - - -	23,790

During 1879 the farms for 1880, 1881, and 1882 were let for $25,500 per annum, but the Coal Company failing it became necessary to reduce this amount to $21,000 per annum, pending the resumption of operations at the mines.

The sum of $280 was derived from a small monthly rental, levied for the first time in 1879, on the godowns or warehouses erected by the native merchants in Victoria. Were the future of the Colony more assured it would perhaps be advisable that the portion of available water frontage in Victoria Harbour not required for Government purposes should be disposed of, so that substantial jetties and godowns could be erected thereon and the present thatch and *nibong* structures, which are an eyesore in the town, be abolished. But the time for so doing has not arrived, and the present buildings are sufficiently well adapted for the trade carried on, to a great extent, in small native prahus, and any measures which might in any manner put, or appear to put, obstructions in the way of the growth of our trade with North Borneo and Sulu are much to be deprecated.

Expenditure.

3. The total expenditure during the year was $35,323, an increase of $704 over that of the previous year, but it included the sum of $773.87 cents, under the head of special payments, which was expended in wages to labourers thrown out of employment by the stoppage of the Coal Company's works, and who were employed in clearing jungle and in making a bridle path across the Island, the intention being to afford relief to the coolies suddenly thrown out of work, and to prevent their leaving the Colony in search of employment, which would have made it necessary to allow the revenue farmers a decrease in the revenue payable by them, while had a new company commenced operations it would have found no labourers on the spot to make a start with. In the case of the tobacco farmer only, a small drawback of $30 was granted. It will thus be seen that the expenditure during the year was kept below the revenue received; but it should not be concluded from this that the needs of the Colony are met by so small an expenditure, and it was only the knowledge that the finances of the Colony might at any moment be considerably reduced from various causes, such as the failure of the Coal Company,* the cessation of the supply of copper coinage

* The Government of the Straits Settlements is unable to supply any copper coinage to Labuan during the present year, 1880.

LABUAN.

from Singapore, and the possible result of the competition of a British Company on the opposite coast of Borneo, causes which at any moment might compel the Colony to draw upon any assets it may have been able to accumulate during periods of comparative prosperity, which prevented the Administrator from expending larger sums on public works, roads, streets, and bridges, and on the "fixed establishment," and during the year the Colony continued to dispense with the services of a surveyor general, thus saving his salary of $2,400.

The following table shows the expenditure and revenue, exclusive of that derived from the sale of copper coinage which has now ceased, for the last six years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1874	6,339	7,187
1875	5,417	6,721
1876	6,902	7,578
1877	5,766	7,995
1878	6,428	7,212
1879	6,846	7,359

Assets.

4. The reliable balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st December 1879 was $21,325.40 cents.

Public Works.

5. The amount expended for new works was $1,478.90 cents, the principal item being $1,052.70 cents for a new wing to the Government Offices, which was not completed within the year. In 1878 $1,618.54 cents were expended on this building, which has since been completed at a total cost of $3,400.

The total expenditure for works and buildings, roads, streets, and bridges was $3,597.56 cents. In 1878 $3,248.11 cents had been expended on these services.

Legislation.

6. The only legislation of any importance was the passing of Ordinance No. 1 of 1879, which repealed the three previous Ordinances relating to the tobacco farm and thus consolidated the law on the subject. By this Ordinance tobacco imported for purposes of re-exportation in the way of trade is wholly untaxed, but the revenue farmer holds the monoply of the growth and retail of tobacco for consumption, nor can Native and Chinese tobaccos be imported for consumption by others than the farmer, but cigars and European and American manufactured tobacco can be imported for consumption on payment of duty to the farmer.

Civil Establishment.

7. Mr. Roach, the surveyor general, who had proceeded to England on sick leave early in 1878, obtained an appointment in Trinidad during the year and it is not intended to fill up, in the present state of the finances, the vacancy thus caused. The appointments of gaoler and apothecary were conferred respectively on Mr. Henry Holkar and Mr. Richard Wilson, who arrived from England to take up their posts. Towards the close of the year the police guard at the gaol was dispensed with and their place taken by four warders, who at the same time were substituted for the convict mandores who had previously been put in charge of the working gangs, and in this way a reduction in the expense of the police force was effected, the force being reduced by ten men.

The administration of the Government throughout the year was carried on by Mr. Treacher, the Colonial Secretary.

Pensions.

8. The only additions to the pension list, which now amounts to $2,393, were those of three ex-policemen whose united pensions amount to $179 per annum.

Education.

9. It was found necessary to close the free school temporarily in August, as the efforts to obtain the services of a schoolmaster from Singapore, to take the place of Sheik Rajab, who had resigned his appointments of Malay writer and interpreter in 1878, but had consented to act as schoolmaster for a time, proved unsuccessful. With the assistance of the Government of the Straits Settlements the services of a schoolmaster have since been obtained, and the school was re-opened early in 1880.

Trade.

10. The value of total imports during 1879 was $707,262 against $756,107 in the previous year; and the value of the exports was $807,613, against $751,765 in 1878.

The falling off in the value of total imports is principally due to the Coal Company having imported less machinery and to smaller supplies of copper coin having been received from the Government of the Straits Settlements.

The chief trade of Labuan is that which comes from the Sulu Archipelago and North Borneo. This would seem to have been in a prosperous condition in 1879, the value of imports having been $355,491 against $312,733 in 1878.

The principal import is sago, raw and flour, and the value of the sago imported during the years 1878 and 1879 were $179,565 and $180,171 respectively.

Shipping.

11. The total tonnage entered during 1879 was, sailing vessels 2,271 tons, steamers 8,516, or a total tonnage of 10,787 tons, being nearly the same as in the previous year.

There was regular steam communication with Singapore, Brunei, Sandakan, and Sulu, while two sailing vessels visited the Island from Hong Kong.

Mines.

12. The year 1879 saw the failure of the fourth company which has attempted to develop the coal resources of the Colony, the possession of which resources had been one of the principal inducements which had led to its occupation in 1848. The Oriental Coal Company, formed in Scotland, obtained a lease of all the coal in the Colony for a period of 42 years for a rental of 1,000*l.* per annum. It commenced to raise coal on 16th May 1868, and its works stopped on the 13th August 1880. During this period the total output of clean coal was 53,741 tons, which was gained at a cost of probably 139,000*l.*, inclusive of 4,000*l.* paid to Government for rental under the lease. This would make the cost of raising the coal about 2*l.* 12*s.* per ton. The coal was sold in Labuan at from $5 to $6, or about 1*l.* 5*s.* to 1*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

The chief cause of the various failures to open out the mines appears to have been the want of sufficiently powerful machinery to keep the pits dry. The first companies too, anxious to obtain returns as quickly as possible, devoted their attention almost exclusively to the working of the surface coal. A method of procedure attended with disastrous consequences in two ways, first, by increasing the water difficulty, the workings acting as drains for the flow of the surface rainfall down the face of the seams, and secondly, by giving the Labuan coal a bad name in the mercantile world, the surface coal being of very inferior quality, while that obtained from the deep workings is a serviceable coal.

At the north end of the Island, the scene of the operations of the various companies, are four seams of this coal, which is of tertiary origin, of which three are workable, viz., No. 1 seam, 4 to 5 feet thick, No. 3, 3 feet thick, and No. 4, 11 feet thick.

Grants of Land.

13. Twelve lots of country land, comprising 152½ acres, were sold by auction during the year, on leases of 999 years, and the average price realised per acre was a little over $4.

Two lots of town land only were sold, of $\frac{1}{20}$ an acre in size each, and realised $30 and $40 per lot.

Crime and Prisons.

14. The average number of prisoners confined in the gaol was 45, as compared with 65 in the previous year, the difference

being due partly to several transmarine convicts becoming entitled to tickets-of-leave, while none were received from Singapore or Hong Kong in their places.

As has been explained in paragraph No. 7, warders were substituted during the year for the police guard, and also in the place of the convict overseers, so that the working gangs are now under charge of paid free overseers, instead of under that of their fellow prisoners.

The gaol buildings were kept in good repair, and Mr. Holkar, the new gaoler, who has had experience as a warder in Chatham Prison, fully justified his selection for the post.

The cases in the criminal court during the year were few in number, and for the most part of a petty character.

Hospitals.

15. The health of the Colony during 1879 was good.

Owing to the failure of the Coal Company, and the consequent cessation of their monthly subscription, the funds of the civil hospital, which depends to a great extent upon voluntary subscriptions, became straitened, and it was necessary for the Government to make a small advance to the institution; but a call for additional subscriptions having been responded to, its expenditure is now met by its income.

A register of the rainfall was for the first time for many years kept by the Colonial Surgeon, who puts the rainfall, from the 9th February to the 31st December, at 130·05 inches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

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